National Surveillance System (NSS)
Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan

Round One Surveillance Reports
Jawzjan Province

(data collection: Fall 2003)

prepared by

GOAL
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in partnership with

Jawzjan Province Surveillance Unit
◆◆◆
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development,
Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, and
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Jawzjan Province Reports

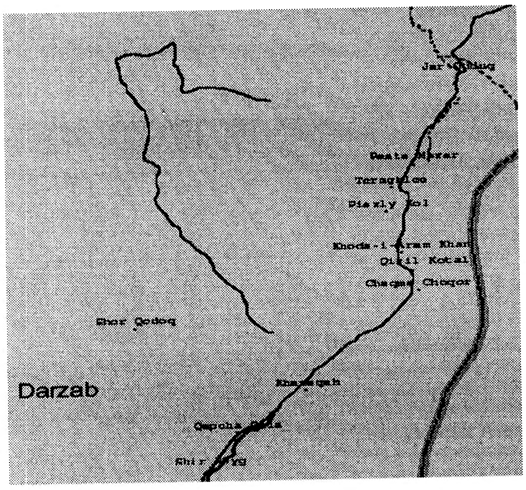
Darzap/ Qoushtapa District Sentinel Sites

Shiberghan District Sentinel Sites

	# National Surveillance System (NSS) ## Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan	Darzap/Qoushtapa District Jar Qoduq Sentinel Site
JawzJan Surveillance Unit	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development, Ministry of Agriculture & Animal Husbandry & Ministry of Health	Fall 2003

SUMMARY FINDINGS FOR JAR QODUQ SENTINEL SITE IN SOUTHERN TIP OF JAWZJAN PROVINCE

(These findings are based on field survey of 40 households and Jar Qoduq village leaders interview. These findings should not be assumed to representative of other parts of Afghanistan)



Contents of Bulletin

NSS Methodology: After final sentinel site report

The report is organized so that for each sentinel site in Kohistan, key indicators representing the main components of each of these three categories are presented and discussed in a narrative format.

Food security

- Five households (25%) consider the food situation worse than four months ago. Eight household (40%) of village people consider that food situation was worse than one year ago.
- Furthermore, 10 households (50%) reported did not have enough to eat in the past four months.
- Though none of the families interviewed felt that the food situation would be worse in the next 4 months, many did express the view that they did not know how to think about such a matter.
- But 72.5% of the households responded that they worried about where their food was coming from. Household enumerators thought that 10% of the households did not have enough food to last through the winter.

Risk to live

- The crude mortality rate is not above both the emergency threshold rate of deaths per day and the normal developing country level of deaths per day.
- Furthermore, for children under 5 years of age, the mortality rate does compare favorably with the stable developing country rate and is less than the emergency threshold rate of deaths people per day. Water diarrhea and acute respiratory infection appear to be very common in children less than 5 years of age in Jar Qoduq. Moreover, these illnesses cause the majority of deaths in this age group.

Livelihood Security

Most (60%) of households engaged in longer hours of work and 7.5% of families interviewed had been eating dried bread, which clearly highlights food insecurity. Most families needed external support to food needs; up to 92.5% of families had to borrow food from relatives in order to make a meal in the last four months. In the same way, up to 62.5% of households took food on credit from local shops. In Jar Qoduq, 45% of households took loans as a coping strategy to meet daily expenses.

What is the NSS?
The National Surveillance System monitors trends in key indicators in order to predict early signs of change and deterioration in livelihoods, food security and nutrition. In conjunction with other complementary data collection systems, the NSS provides relevant data for prioritizing limited resources and designing programs.

Methodology
The NSS is based on a sentinel site system, in which provincial level ministries follow a rotating cohort of households over time. Sites are selected so that they mirror the majority of the communities with respect to agro-ecological features, economic activities, available services and people in a given area (livelihood / agro-ecological zone). Because of the diversity of livelihoods in Afghanistan, even in rural areas, information from the sentinel may not be representative of every village in the zone. However, it is likely, that the data from one sentinel site can signal concern for other villages in the same zone (See Annex I for detailed information on methodology).

OBJECTIVES OF REPORT

- Provide current information on household food security status in Darzap/Qostipa District
- Provide information on risk to lives and nutritional risk of individuals in Darzap/Qoshtipa District
- Provide information on the current household livelihood security situation in Darzap/Qostipa District, specifically looking at current shocks to livelihoods and the ability of households to adapt to (cope with) these shocks
- Develop a better understanding of the vulnerability and risk of communities and households in Darzap/Qostipa in relation to issues of food security, mortality, health and nutrition.

Additionally, this report provides baseline information on indicators that are unique to a local area and have not yet been explored in the depth needed for use in guiding programmes and policies. They are:

- Characteristics of household wealth in Darzap/Qostipa District
- Livelihood Strategies employed in Darzap/Qostipa District
- Presence of morbidity, mortality and malnutrition in rural communities in Darzap/Qostipa District

And finally, the report aims to provide information on how government and other agencies can use this increased understanding of livelihoods, vulnerability and risk in order to design and prioritise effective policies and programme interventions.

Darzap/Qoshtipa District

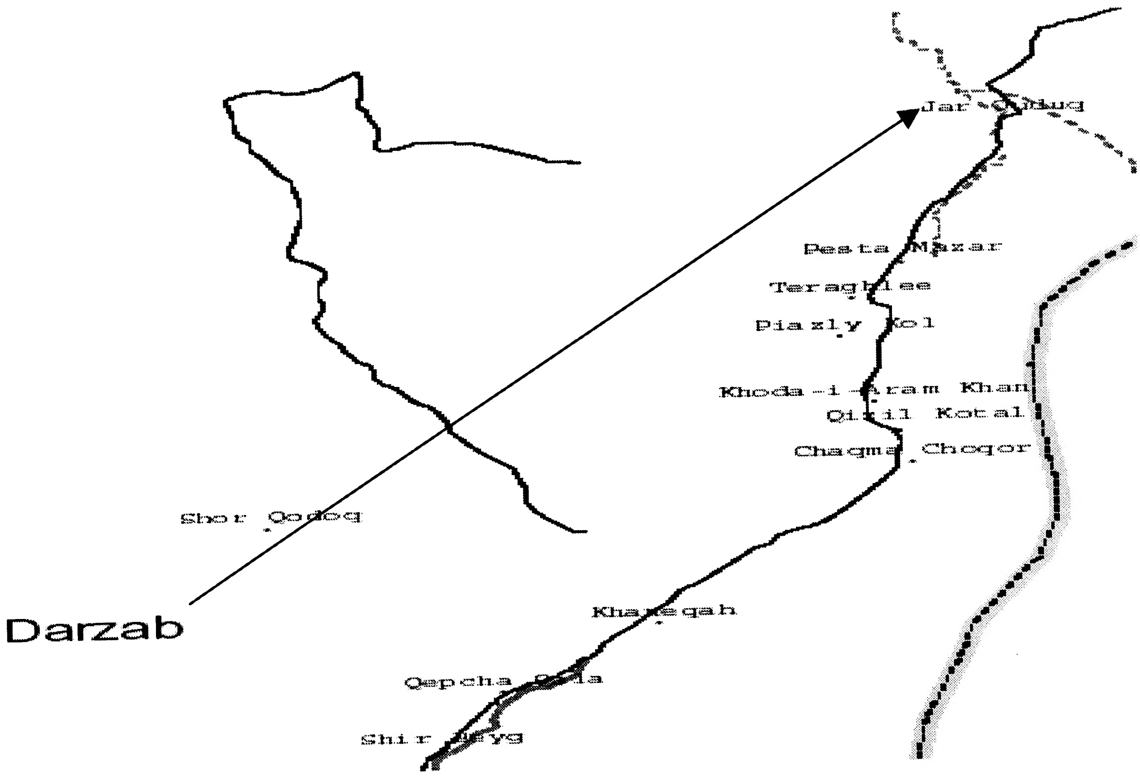
The district of Darzab is located in the southern tip of Jawzjan Province. Darzab has a population of 59,024 and a land area of 1337 sq km. After more than two decades of war and conflict in the area, the Khostipa area which was part of the Darzap district, is now considered a separate district. This district, however, is not officially recognized yet even though they are operating as a district. The two sentinel sites of this report are both located in the Khostipa area.

Qostipa is a rural self-declared district found in the Southern part of the Jawzjan province, the Northern section of the Darzap district. The area includes settlements of Pashtun Kuchi. Although traditionally nomadic, the Kuchi have of late been forced into a more sedentary lifestyle with many now living in settlements throughout the year. They are landless and have traditionally been wealthy livestock herders. Conflict, drought and intimidation/theft by Commanders have, however, destroyed their livestock and reduced the Kuchi communities to limited income generating enterprises such as casual labour and collecting and selling animal dung in local markets. These groups of people are particularly vulnerable due to the fact they are Pashtun in a predominantly Uzbek region. It is particularly important that the pressure on the scant resources is lessened in Kuchi areas, where the needs of the Kuchi people causes local tensions and protection risks. The Kuchi population have self-identified water and access to education as their greatest needs.

LIVELIHOOD ZONES FOR QOSHTIPA DISTRICT

Livelihood zones in Qoshtipa self-declared District can be divided into three distinct agro-ecological areas. These distinctions impact household livelihood patterns, and one study or one sentinel site was selected from each area. Most of the province consists of mountainous, rainfed farmland valleys. However, this report will focus Mountainous rainfed land and A Nomadic Kuchi Desert land of the districts. A sentinel site was chosen from each livelihood zones and this report includes information on both sentinel sites from Zone one (See map).

Zone one: Raindfed Land (16 villages) Jar qoduq
This zone encompasses the 16 villages in the North section of Qostipa. Farming systems, characterised by rain-fed agriculture(see the map).



GENERAL Jar Qoduq INFORMATION

	Average Household Size
Wealth	**8.0**
Middle	**6.5**
Poor	**4.7**
All Households	**5.6**

Jar Qodoq is the village representing Livelihood Zone one in this report. It is the sentinel site chosen to represent the 16 villages of the Northern part of Khostipa and is located at an altitude of 1,500 meters. Jurqodoq comes from the word Jar and Qodoq. Jar means in Uzbek language deep and qodoq means well, Jur Qodoq means deep well.

The majority of Jar qudoq settlement identifies themselves as Uzbeki and speak Uzbek language. The village currently has 18 mosque and 600 households. Of these households 52% are male and 48% are female. Household sizes differ with wealth, wealthy households tend to have more family members compared to middle and poor households. For most likely poor households tend to split into nuclear households when member of the households get married.

The Qaruadar (village leader) Mullah Emam of Mohamed Bai Mosque (the biggest mosque of the village which has 118 household), has been chosen by the people of this village as a village leader. The leader of the village with the *shura*(village elders) group make all the decisions and make facilities for the community. Usually, all disputes within the village are settled by a group of village elders. They have administrative links to the Sheberghan district, which is 2 hours away by donkey or foot. The district governor is responsible for his district to the provincial centre, at this point, Sheberghan.

In Jar Qodoq village has one inter-medium school (9th grade)l for the boys and the girls of the village that is within a relatively short distance and the students are able to walk. School has four classes and each class has between 50 and 60 students both for girls' class and the boys' class.

Farming systems, characterised by rain-fed agriculture and livestock rearing, were drastically undermined because irreversible degradation of coping strategies (distress sales of livestock, land, tools and other assets) brought on by drought conditions in 1998-2002 have left large numbers of families without the means to respond to more favourable agricultural conditions. However, last years harvest yields were higher than they have been for many years.

The community categorized households into three different wealth groups, or socio-economic categories. The table below describes the type of features characterizing each wealth group and the percentage of households falling in each category. These socio-economic groups will be used throughout the report to understand how food security, livelihood security and risk to lives may be different for households of different socio-economic status. There is a large difference in the household size between the wealthy and the other two groups that the enumerators attribute to a few different reasons. It is seen that the rich men have more than one wife at a time and so bear children from both wives and that the sons of wealthy families do not separate from the family after marriage. In addition, members of poorer families may migrate to find work and so contribute to a smaller family.

Jar qoduqand the surrounding villages, have an active community mobilization process that organizes community work projects. It is mainly from the Shura (elders) group responsibility. The community collectively maintains the water canals pathway, roads and advocate the community needs from Government level and the international NGO's for help.

Wealthy Households: 12.5 percent (Five household)

Households that have more than 80 sheep and wool spinning and weaving namad privately and also having rainfed land.

--women--

These households have between 10-20 sheep, cows and having rainfed land, with more than two sources of income

--men--

Medium Households: 25 percent (Seven households)

These households have only one house. They have whatever is needed in their houses. They often own a shop, one motorcycle, or a shop or a house.

--women--

These households don't have cars and land. They have a house and limited number of livestock (20 - 30). They don't do daily/manual labor jobs, but some often engage in casual labor. Many of these households have shops.

--men--

Poor Households: 62.5 percent (25 households)

Household with limited assets. Households who are causual labour and have no access to land.

--women--

Households who have no assets. Households with no livestock and doing causual labour.

--men--

Further more, social networks are essential for livelihood strategies. Women play a major role in reproductive and household's affairs. Children often help women with accomplishing some of their responsibilities. Men have more authority than women. Some men are engaged in waged employment. It is the men who have control over the large agricultural activities and who are involved in local community politics at ethnic or tribal authority level.

Gender was found to be critical in the household structure and processes that relate to rural livelihood security. The data shows unequal gender relations at household level. To a large extent, household headship determines the access of the household to assets and resources, division of labour, decision-making, power and livelihood strategies. Female-headed households tend to diversify their activities to earn income in cash and in kind. Gender was identified as an important factor in using indigenous knowledge in enhancing livelihood security. Both men and women were found to possess indigenous knowledge. Women's indigenous knowledge is essential for ensuring household food security, maternal health and child care and income generation through weaving fiber clothes, production of carpets, and handicraft. Their knowledge is not limited in food production and post harvest processes. men utilize their indigenous knowledge in agricultural production, carving and traditional medicines.

Additionally, households keeps the Islamic practice of ''zadaqa" with mostly ''wealthy" household giving ten percent of their assets to the ''poor" households (islamic low). In the report data shows some of the families were received gift form of zadaqa for sources of income. QanJogha community have good relationship with Shebergan governor and they support Jumbush political military party as they mostly ethnically Uzbek ethnic and speak Uzbeki language.

FOOD SECURITY - Jar Qodoq

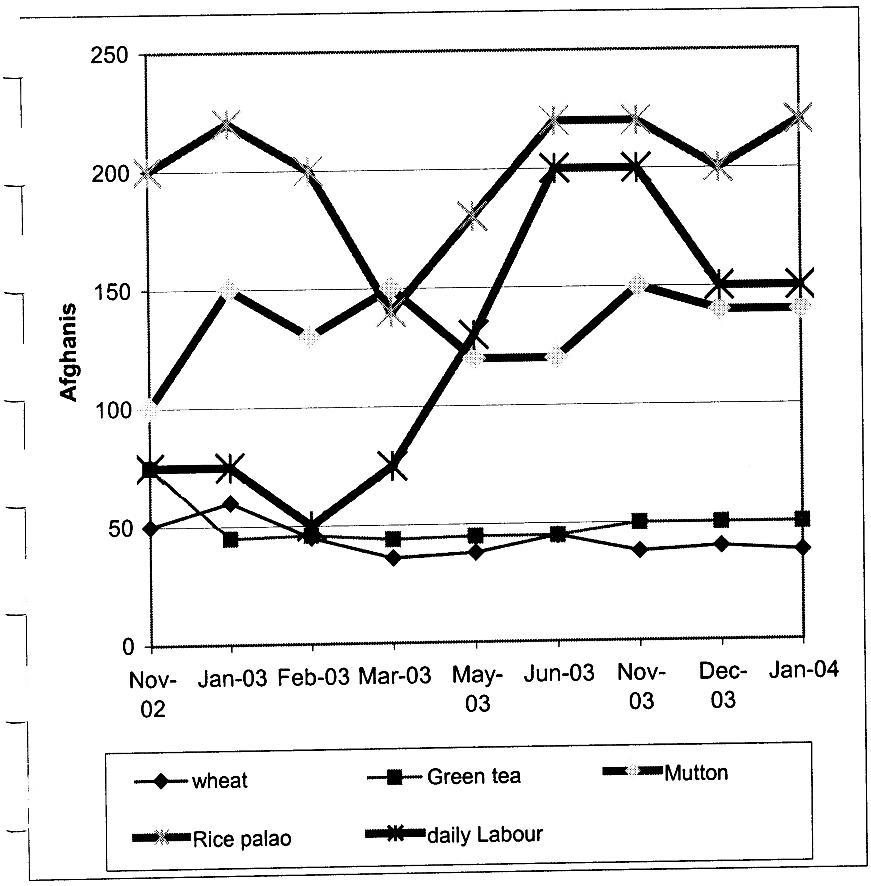
MARKET ACCESS

Location of Market	Time taken to reach market: Vehicle	Time taken to reach market: Foot	Cost of getting to market	Market Accessible in winter
Jar Qodoq	--	Less than 30 minutes	--	Yes
Chaqmacho qor	--	2 to 3 hours	--	Yes
Sheberghan	3 to 6 hours	--	400	Yes

Jar Qoduq bazaar market is the closest food market to Jar Qoduq village and the surrounding villages. However, there are two other markets that people goes to. Chaqma choqo it usually takes one to two hours by donkey or foot to go there. This market is only opened Fridays. The third market that people who can afford the transportation cost is the Sheberghan city market. Most of the Jar Qoduq people can not afford to travel to this market for their daily grocery requirements. This is because of the distance to the market, people are forced to stay overnight in Sheberghan city and if they do not have relative in the town, which is the case most of time, there is an accommodation charge on top of the 400 afs round trip travel cost by vehicle.

The roads are present and relatively good. The Jar Qoduq residence can get all the basic food items from the Jar Qoduq bazaar. However, for a lot of none food items and medicine drugs are always needed to travel to Sheberghan city. Some people prefer to do their shopping in Sheberghan city, the believed reason being that food and none food items are cheaper in the big city market rather than the village bazaar.

Most households send one household member to the market on a market day (Mondays and Thursdays, weekly) during, summer, spring and autumn. All the above three markets are accessible all season or year round.
The people in JarQodoq go to the market to trade wheat and livestock and to buy both food and non-food items. Transactions in the market take place using cash. However, both Jar Qoduq and Chaqma choqo bazaars people can trade non cooked food items such as agriculture crops to other items that they want.



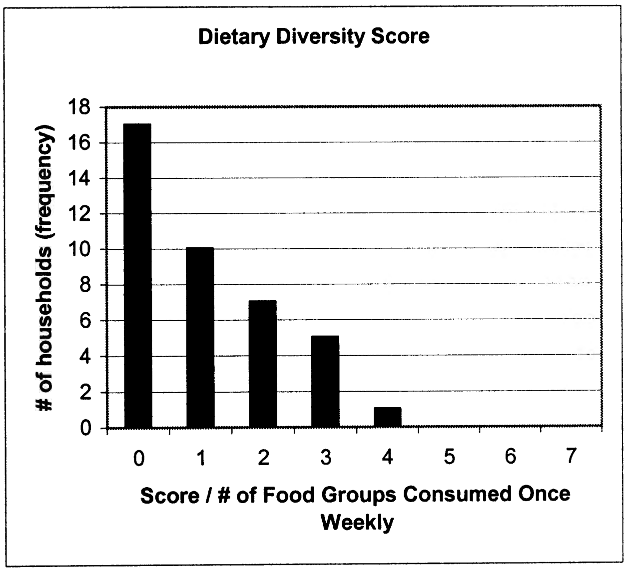
MARKET PRICES
Jar Qoduq household and surrounding villages rely on the Sheberghan city market for purchase of food and none food items. Fifty percent of the villages in the area households do not purchase wheat. However, the price of wheat was fairly steady for the last year. The price of wheat usually has effect on the daily labour, as they usually get paid for wheat for their work instead of cash. When the prices of wheat decrease and the daily labour workers rates increase; the daily labour workers will receive more wheat for their days of work.

Based on the graph on the left, the prices of wheat and green tea were fairly stable all year around. However, from March 2003, the daily labour rates has gone up and reached maximum on June 2003 at 200 afs per month. Than, started to decrease by November 2003. A similar trend was also seen the prices of rice and the mutton. The rice price reached maximum of 220 afs per kilogram (kg) during months of January 2003, June 2003 and November 2003 and January 2004. Where, the price of mutton was highest price 150 afs during

the months of January, March and November of 2003.
The price increase of rice and mutton have a direct impact on the village food security as it is the stable food of the village and most of the households are highly concern the future prices of this items. Jar Qodoq households purchase from the bazaar market a vegetable items such as potatoes, spring onion, okra and carrots and the prices are fairly steady. There are some seasonal shortages of vegetable in the market, but this does not change the prices of the vegetable and does not show a higher demand of this vegetable during off season. People always get the vegetables that are in the market.

DIETARY DIVERSITY - DIET QUALITY

Dietary diversity is a primary component of food security. Previous studies have shown that dietary habits in Afghanistan are not very diverse and consequently people are at risk of micronutrient deficiency disorders and related diseases. It is not entirely clear how dietary preferences and types of food available interact to determine household dietary patterns. In order to better understand the quality of diets in the last four months, surveyors asked about the frequency of eating foods from different food groups.



These results were used to create a dietary diversity score in order to capture dietary quality and monitor quality overtime. A score was calculated for each household and the results graphed in the chart on the right. The diversity score is calculated by attributing **a score of "1" to each food group that was eaten at least once weekly** by the household. Thus, households with a higher diversity score have a more diverse diet. Repeated surveys throughout the country indicate that most households consume cereals or food staple on a daily basis and thus cereals were not included in the diet diversity score. On average all households combined in JaqQodoq had a dietary diversity score of 1.1. The above histogram shows that 17 household scoring "0", where 10 households scoring "1" and 7 households scoring "2". Furthermore, one household scoring "4" and no one household have scored "5", "6" and "7". Diversity scores are relatively or slightly different between Better off and medium wealth group. With middle wealth group scoring 1.50 compared to the wealthy groups score of 1.40 and poor wealth group score 0.84. These results suggest that households either have no the means to buy more expensive foods or, do not acquired a preference for a more diverse diet. This could also mean that variety of food groups may not available from the nearest food market or produced locally.

The table below reflects the average frequency of consumption for food groups during the last four months (excluding Ramadan and festivals times) by wealth group and for all households combined. The data shows that all households are eating protein rich foods (meat, milk, eggs, and pulses) at least once per month to complement their cereals (wheat and barley). However this data does not reveal information on sufficiency of protein intake.

The choice of protein for households of this village does not differ by wealth group. Wealthy and poor households eat meat once a month whereas medium eat meat once a week. Wealth groups eat eggs and milk-related products about 2-3 times a month, whereas medium and poor households eat egg and milk-related products at least once a month. Wealth groups eat pulses once a week whereas medium and poor wealth groups eat pulses 2-3 times a month. However this data does not reveal information on sufficiency of protein intake.

In the last four months, all households seem to be eating less vegetable compared to fruits where wealth and poor groups eat fruits once a week and medium wealth groups seem to be eating fruits twice a week. In this village the results show that medium wealth group had better diversity diet compare to both wealth and the poor groups.

As data was not collected on quantities or actual consumption, it is not possible to make statements regarding consumption of vitamins and minerals. Areas of potential concern would be:
1) sufficiency of consumption of vitamin A from animal sources and beta-carotene from plant sources,
2) sufficiency of calcium consumption from milk related products and water (much of the water in the area is hard) considering the frequency of consumption and the limited amount available in other food items consumed,
3) sufficiency of vitamin C from fresh plant sources.

Average Frequency of Food Group Consumption by Wealth Group

Wealth Group	Meat	Milk, Yogurt, Krut, etc	Eggs	Pulses	Green Leafy Vegetables	Other Vegetables	Fruits	1 = Never Eat 2 = Once a month or less 3 = 2 to 3 times a month 4 = Once Weekly 5 = Twice Weekly 6 = 3 to 5 times Weekly 7 = Always
Better Off	2.2	2.8	3.0	4.0	1.4	1.6	4.4	
Medium	2.8	2.5	1.7	3.2	1.5	2.2	5.1	
Poor	2.0	2.1	1.5	3.1	1.1	1.4	3.9	
All Households	2.2	2.3	1.7	3.2	1.3	1.7	4.3	

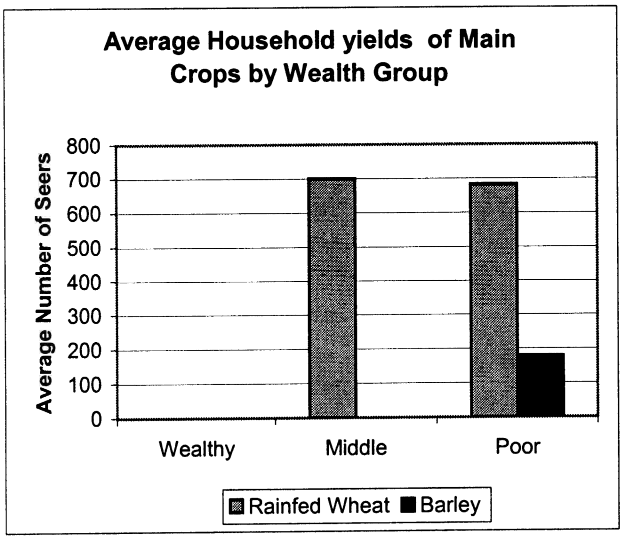
CROP PRODUCTION

Rural and semi-rural areas in Afghanistan are still highly dependent on subsistence agriculture for their own household food consumption, thus monitoring annual crop yields and amount planted can help predict the food security situation of households. Agricultural production is the most important source of income for the people of Jurqodoq, with 75% of the households deriving an income from crop production, agricultural labour provides employment to 62.5% of the households. Furthermore, crop production is the primary source of income for 50% of the households.

The main crops grown in Jar qoduq are rainfed wheat and barley. However, when the weather permits people grow melon and water melon. We have collected this data before the planting season and there is no previous data available in this area.

2003 Harvest

The average household harvested wheat in 2003 was 1,092 kg where the average harvested barley was 313.3 kg per household. The sources of both seed varieties were collected from previous year harvest. In 2003, 30 households of the 40 households surveyed planted both wheat and barley. There is no previous study done in this area and as a result there is no previous data available to compare the harvest of the year.



As some households are sharecropper or rent their land, the amount of yield kept by the households could differ from the actual amount physically harvested. In Jar Qoduq, 19 households (47.5%) own rainfed land with average landholding of 27.3 jeribs (5 jiribs =1 ha).

The graph presents the average amount of yield kept by the household. It is disaggregated by wealth group in order to understand the relative differences in food availability by socio-economic group. No wealth household was engaged by crop production. The average amount of wheat kept by the medium households is 700 kg with the poor-income households averaging 683 kg. However, this graph does not represent the food situation of the people.

FOOD SECURITY PERCEPTION

Household perception of food security is an important indicator of current food security status. Five households (12.5) consider the food situation worse than four months ago. Of this 12.5%, 7.5% were from the poor wealth group, where the rest of 5% were 2.5% of each wealthy and middle groups. Eight household (20%) of village people consider that food situation was worse than one year ago. 12.5% of these households were from poor wealth group, where 5% and 2,5% ware from the middle wealth group and better off households respectively. Furthermore, 10 households (25%) reported did not have enough to eat in the past four months. Eight households (20%) of the 25% were from the poor wealth group and 5% were from the middle wealth group.

Though none of the families interviewed felt that the food situation would be worse in the next 4 months, many did express the view that they did not know how to think about such a matter. But 72.5% of the households responded that they worried about where their food was coming from. Of this 72.5%, 43% who worried were poor wealth group, 23% were from the middle wealth group and 7.5% were from wealth group households.

Household enumerators thought that 10% of the households did not have enough food to last through the winter. All of these four households were from the poor wealth group.

PERCEPTION OF FOOD SECURITY INDICATORS	**Percentage** out of 40 households
Consider food situation to be **worse** than 4 months ago	12.5
Consider food situation to be **worse** in comparison to one year ago	20
Consider food situation **not** to be **enough** in the last four months	25
Worried where their food was coming from at the time of the survey	72.5
Think the food situation will be **worse** in the next 4 months	0%
Enumerators thought households did **not** have **enough** food for the next 4 months	10%

CONCLUSION: FOOD SECURITY

In Jar Qoduq and surrounding villages of this area, sustainable food security and rural community food self-reliance requires rehabilitation strategies that contribute further to sustainable food security, community participation and specific programs that improve the condition of living of the "poor" households. The programmes, therefore, should be appropriate for the different agro-ecological zones and community skills. Rebuilding and revitalization of agriculture and alternative livelihood sectors are the only subsets of the broad national view and it is the centre issue of the sustainable food security of "poor" household in this area.

Jar Qoduq, and surrounding villages are not in a position to be food secure through its own production at present. Food security in the rural community has been considered to be largely a function of stable crop production. Crop production is the primary source of income for 50% of the households while 28% of households are engaged in life threatening occupations in order to secure a meal.

Food security is defined as the condition whereby everyone has at all times access to and control over sufficient quantities of good quality food for an active and healthy life (World Bank 1986). It is composed of access to food and availability of food. In Jar Qoduq, there was no access to food for all households and there was not enough food for the "poor" and "middle" households. For all household categories, each group has adapted their own coping strategies to deal with their food situation, but the common practice was to reduce their household consumption by skipping meals, eating dry bread or poverty food.

Despite the conflict, prices of staple food crops and currency exchange rates under the Taliban were relatively stable. The new administration was accompanied by an enormous appreciation of the afghani currency by approximately 60%. The main markets are sensitive to these economic trends. Prices of staple food crops (rice and mutton) are continuously increasing because of exchange rate fluctuation. However, the price of wheat is continuously decreasing (1 Kg of wheat is $1 where the FAO price value of 1kg wheat seed is $18 in Afghanistan). The price increase has an impact for the community dietary diversity and is a common concern for the future nutrition of the elderly, women and children of this village.

The following supports are immediately needed in this sentinel site and the surrounding villages.

1. Water intervention is needed firstly for community consumption, health and hygiene needs.
2. Cash for work will help the food security of this community.
3. Emergency Food aid is needed for the "poor" and "middle" households of Jar Qoduq village, however food insecurity does not always equate with food aid needs. Food security can be achieved, if the farmers' inputs are available in the bazaar.

The priority support to improve the food security of this sentinel site is rapid revival of the crop production by ensuring the following:

1. The availability and distribution of inputs (improved seed, fertilizer, tools). Furthermore, a priority needs to be placed in developing quality improved staple food seed varieties that is suitable to the local environment conditions.
2. Shortages of water have impacted negatively on health, hygiene and food security. Food security in Jar Qoduq today is primarily a function of the household's ability to retain control over access water.
3. Capacity building though information transfer of technology is a need to train the farming community in this area.

The priority is rapid revival of agriculture production to improve staple crop production in this area. The challenges or limiting factors are lack of water, availability of inputs (improved seeds, fertilizer and tools), rehabilitation of rural infrastructure and the services (pest and disease control, extension, credit).

Water is one of the most precious resources; the consequence of the successive and severe drought has been serious depletion of the water resources, particularly underground water. Priority action is better planning and management of water resources including river basins to ensure sustainability use of the rivers for irrigation and generation of power and creating of national water authority and localised water authorities.

The second most important challenge is to increase the quantity of quality seed production; to further develop the selection of improved varieties and to develop private enterprise-based national seed industry. A priority needs to be placed in developing rainfed seed verities that is suitable for dry land conditions. Wheat and Barley are the major crops growing, however, paddy rice, legumes and maize play important roles in retaining food security in the area. It is fact that rotation of crop production can reduce overall risk of pests and diseases as a buffer against low market prices, yield increase. Furthermore, it will also enhance dietary diversity which is a concern for the household's food security.

RISKS TO LIVES – Jar Qoduq

MORTALITY INDICATORS:

The current crude mortality rate (CMR) of 0.25 in Jaq Qoduq is one fourth of the emergency threshold rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 people per day and is two fourths of the normal developing country level of 0.5 deaths/10,000 people per day. The children under-five years' mortality rate of 0.79 does compare favourably with the stable developing rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 people per day and is lower than the emergency threshold rate of 2.0 deaths/10,000 people per day. Because of the high rate of maternal and child mortality in Afghanistan, this study also looked at the number of children who had a skilled birth attendant present at delivery as a proxy for risk to lives of both the mothers giving birth and the new infants. Of the number of children born in the last 4 months, the percentage of births attended by a skilled birth attendant is 25% with four births in the village. This is very low and is unacceptable percentage. This figure, however, is not likely to include stillbirths or children who died during the last four months as a result of the difficulty of obtaining such information.

RISKS TO LIVES INDICATORS	Percentage (%)
Mortality Indicators	
Crude mortality in last 4 months (Deaths / 10, 000 / day)	0.25
Under 5 mortality in last 4 months (Deaths / 10, 000 / day)	0.79
Births in last 4 months attended by a Skilled Birth Attendant (n=4)	25
Morbidity Indicators	
Children < 5 years with watery diarrhoea (n=35)	35.3%
Children < 5 years with bloody diarrhoea (n=35)	0.0%
Children < 5 with ARI (n=35)	32.4%
Children between 6 and 59 months with measles vaccination (n=28)	65.5%
Child Anthropometric Status (WFH % of median)	
Children with global acute malnutrition (Oedema/Severe/Moderate) (n=29)	0
Children > 6 months and <59 months with Oedema (n=29)	0
Children > 6 and <59 months with severe acute malnutrition (n=29)	0
Children > 6 and <59 months with moderate acute malnutrition (n=29)	0
Children > 1 year and <59 months with a MUAC under 13.5 cm (n=24)	10.3
Children > 1 year and <59 months with a MUAC under 12 cm (n=24)	0
Adult Women Anthropometric Status	
Reproductive age women (15-49 years) with a MUAC < 23.0 cm (n=54)	14.8
Reproductive age women (15-49 years) with a MUAC < 21.0 cm (n=54)	0
Micronutrient Deficiencies	
Households with iodised salt (only includes households with salt) (n=40)	0

MORBIDITY INDICATORS:

The morbidity indicators included in the surveillance system are associated with a risk of mortality and are the primary causes of death for children under five in Afghanistan. The incidence of watery diarrhoea among children under 5 at 35% is high enough to cause concern. There was no incidence of bloody diarrhoea in the children in the village were found. Many of the cases of diarrhoeal disease might be attributed to hygiene practices and a shortage of water. The percentage of children under five suffering from Acute Respiratory Infections is 32.4%. Measles vaccination coverage in Afghanistan is 95%, and the MOH figures for the Darzap/Qostipa district area report coverage to be 100%. WHO and MOH sponsored measles campaigns in Jar Qoduq in June21, 2003. The measles vaccination coverage of 66% among children under five in this round of data is worrying.

CHILDREN NUTRITIONAL STATUS:

In Jaq Qoduq, none of the children were found to be severely malnourished (less than 70% weight –for –height percent of the median) or suffering from oedema. Children with oedema are at an extremely high risk of dying

and in this sample, no children were oedematous. Children below 70% are considered severely malnourished (acute) and also have a high risk of mortality. However, in this village the sample shows that there were no children under 5 with severe or moderately wasted.

Low MUAC measurements also indicate children at risk of mortality. The presence of 10% of children with a MUAC lower than 13.5 cm is currently overwhelming public health problem among the children between 12-59 months of age of the village. None of the children were found to have had a MUAC of less than 12.0 cm.

ADULT WOMEN NUTRITIONAL STATUS:
Low MUACs in reproductive-age women has been associated with high child and maternal mortality making it an important indicator for increased risks to adult women mortality. In Jar Qoduq, 15% of women have a MUAC below 23.0 cm and none of the women were found to have had a MUAC below 21.0 cm.

MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES:
The presence of iodised salt in the house is a proxy for the use of it and also therefore of iodine deficiency. No households had iodised salt as all salt was locally mined block salt. As of January 2004 iodized salt had reached the provincial capital market in Sheberghan and there is Iodised salt factory in Pul-e-khorasan which is part of Shebergan city.

HEALTH FACILITIES:
The table below lists the health services and facilities that are available to the people of Jar Qoduq area. However, there were no health facilities in Jar Qoduq itself and all the residents of the neighbouring villages travel to Shaberghan City (the provincial capital city) to use the Shaberghan City's health services. Shabarghan City has two main hospitals, four comprehensive health centres and a number of private doctors. People travel there with public transportation; the cost of getting to Sheberqan City from Jar Qoduq is 4000 Afs.

In Jar Qoduq itself, there are number of traditional birth attendants (TBA) to help the village women with birth deliveries. The birth attendant usually comes to the woman's house for services. The common custom of TBA in this village and the surrounding areas is that there are no fixed charges for the TBA services and, as such, every household pays what they are able to afford and in accordance with their class in the community. The TBA fee ranges from nothing to 100 Afs and can be in cash or kind. Many households in this village pay to their TBA services using food and non-food items.

All the Government health services in Sheberghan City are free of charge, and as a result they are used largely by low and middle income families. The wealthy class of Jar Qoduq and the surrounding area goes to private doctors which charge 40Afs for a visit. Many people believe that the services of a private doctor are better than those of the government and if one is able to afford 40 Afs he/she should go to the private doctor. Medicine needs to be paid for in both cases. There are also skilled birth attendants in Sheberghan City hospitals and additionally there is a private service that people may use in the case of severe emergencies or complications. This type of private service is very expensive. Travel to Sheberghan is possible in all seasons, including winter.

Health Facilities Table

	Location of facility	Time taken to reach facility	Cost of getting to the facility (Afs)	Access to facility	Facility Accessible in winter and Spring
Health posts	Shibirghan	One and half hour	4000	Everybody	Yes
Basic Health Centre	Shibirghan	One and half hour	4000	Everybody	Yes
Comprehensive Health Centre	Shibirghan	One and half hour	4000	Everybody	Yes
Hospital	Shibirghan	One and half hour	4000	Everybody	Yes
Traditional healers/Birth Attendants	Jar Qoduq	Five minute	-	Women Only	Yes
Skilled birth attendant	Shibirghan	One and half hour	4000	Women Only	Yes
Private doctor	Shibirghan	One and half hour	4000	Everybody	Yes

The use of health facilities has stayed the same in the last four months.

WATER SOURCES:

The sources of drinking water for the village were open wells, hand pumps, purchased water from the outside villages and pool. The quality of the open wells and the hand pumps remains the same while the quantity of water decreased.

There is no specific system of regulating the use of the well water despite the fact that the area is relatively dry. The hand pump was a preferential source of water in comparison to the open wells on account of its water being considered sweet. However, in the last four months, following the summer, the third most important source of water was its purchase. The system is usually that the water carrier needs to be told to get water then he takes his cart to the wells that always have water but are far from the village and returns with water, hence it takes time before water can be supplied. The forth positions in terms of importance for the village are shared between the Coqs/pool built by the GOAL. GOAL has also built the main nine hand pumps that most of the village community were using it.

Drinking Water Source Table

(Source listed in order of use)	Time taken for water collection	Quality change since last year	Quantity change since last year
Open well	< 1 hour	Same	Increased
Hand pump	1 to 3 hours	Same	Same
Buy water	< 1 hour	Same	Increased
Pool	< 1 hour	Same	Same

The people report that the quality of the water has not changed since the previous year, but the quantity of underground water is reported to have increased, probably due to the better rainfall. The number one priority for the village is to get more access to good drinking water through the construction of more hand pumps and deep wells with motor pumps.

SANITATION FACILITIES:

There were only two kinds of toilet facility used by the people of Jar Qoduq. The Pit latrine and open field. There are a number of pit latrines, with almost every household having its own latrine in the compound. The community as a whole has built a large number of toilets in the near past and is very aware of the link between disease and sanitation and are making an effort to use only toilets. They are also of the opinion that as it is a very close structured village with not a lot of land between houses therefore from the perspective of health and hygiene it is important for them to use the pit latrines.

CONCLUSION: RISKS TO LIVES

The crude mortality rate is not above both the emergency threshold rate of deaths per day and the normal developing country level of deaths per day. Furthermore, for children under 5 years of age, the mortality rate compares favorably with the stable developing country rate and is less than the emergency threshold rate of deaths people per day. This survey demonstrated that the children of Jar Quduq were not experiencing an overwhelming public health problem among children less than five years of age. But this does not mean that condition of health in Jar Qoduq was good condition. Condition of chronic health problems were very common the surrounding area.

In Jar Qoduq, water and sanitation provisions were completely inadequate. Presumably, the rates of watery diarrhea can be attributed to these two factors. This should be improved as rapidly as possible. GOAL (Ireland-NGO,) has built nine hand pumps and two Cogs for the people of Jaq Qoduq and many more are needed. In addition, adequate preventative and curative health facilities and services should be available and accessible to the village community.

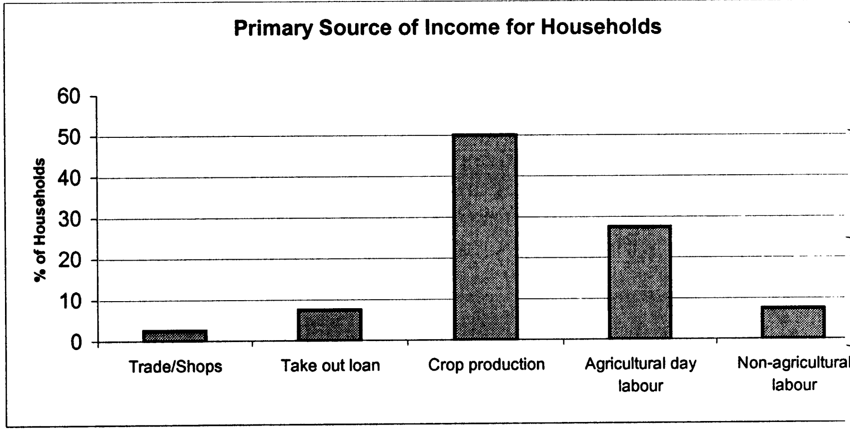
A mass measles vaccination campaign is also needed in this village. Measles vaccination coverage is poor and is probably not interrupting measles virus transmission. Moreover, community training in public health is essential as introducing the community to toilets and other sanitation programmes that will improve the condition of Jar Qoduq's health problem.

LIVELIHOOD SECURITY – Jar Qoduq

The Livelihood Security section is structured to give a general overview of the livelihood strategies of the community and the households within the community. It then looks at the main livelihood strategies of these households, describing the state of the livelihood assets related to each particular income source. This section also seeks to provide indicators of current shocks to livelihood sources and households' abilities to cope with these shocks. This information is also intended to provide agencies with sufficient information to decide whether there is a need to respond to a current shock. It finishes by looking at the characteristics of households that are at high risk of being impacted by future shocks and offering recommendations on how agencies can develop household livelihood opportunities to mitigate future shocks and protect against livelihood asset depletion.

LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES:

Crop production was the most important income source for all Jar Qoduq households, in all wealth categories, from June to September 2003. Secondary and tertiary income sources were agricultural day labour, and non-agricultural labour respectively. For both "poor" and "middle" wealth groups, agricultural day-labour was the second most important income source, whilst non-agricultural labour formed a significant contribution to income in poor households only.



The table below captures the percentage of households engaged different activities, giving a sense of the relative importance of the different livelihood strategies to the community. Crop production was the primary income generation activity for 30 of 40 households. Collecting natural resources was a source of income for 28 households, and agricultural labour was an income source for 25 households. Furthermore, loans and agricultural livestock were equally important income sources for Jar Qoduq households.

	Percent of households with Income Source	% of Households with Women's Income Source
Spinning/ Carpets Labour	17.5	35.0
Trade / Shops	10.0	7.5
Spinning/ Carpets Business	0.0	5.0
Agricultural Labour	62.5	--
Agricultural Livestock	37.5	15.0
Take a Loan	45.0	--
Microbusiness	2.5	--
Agricultural Crops	75.0	--
Collection–natural resources	70.0	7.5
Formal Wage Labour	0.0	--
Informal Wage Labour	5.0	--
Remittances	--	--
Rental Income	--	--
Gifts/Gleaning	7.5	7.5
Repayment of Loan	--	--
Begging	--	--

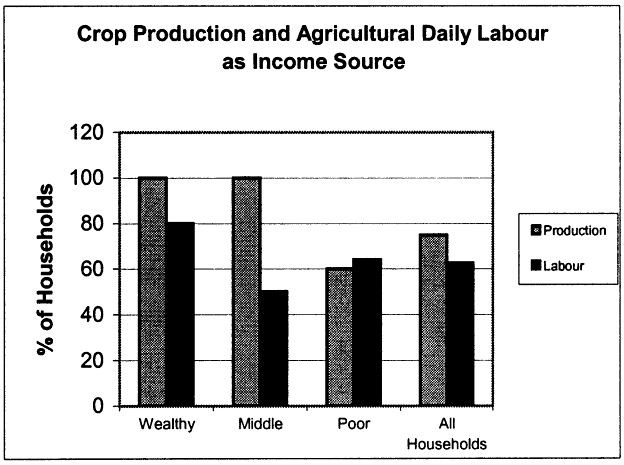
Data regarding women's income generation can clarify the role of women in current livelihood strategies and identify potential for future interventions. Most women (35%) made carpets for wage, followed by livestock production. Shop-keeping, collection of natural resources and gifts were, equally, the third most important source of income.

Carpet labour was the greatest female contribution to household income for women of all wealth categories. In "poor" and "meddle" income households carpet weaving accounted for 15% of income generation activity, compared to only 5% "wealthy" households. Only women in "wealthy" and "middle" households participated in Agricultural livestock activities.

Both trade and collection of natural resources were important income sources for "middle" and the "poor" households. Furthermore, activities most important to men tended to less important to women. However, all women received income from gifts, which men of all wealth groups did not consider an income source.

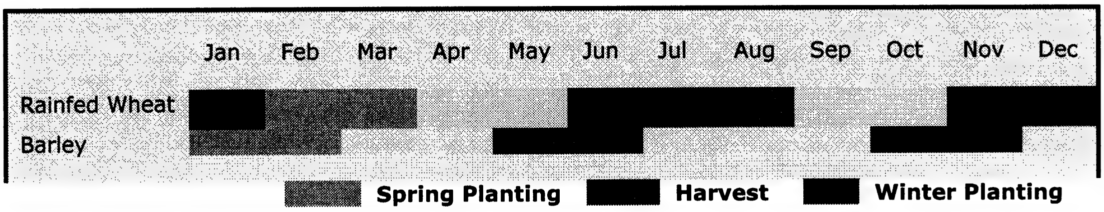
CROP PRODUCTION AND AGRICULTURAL DAILY LABOUR

Crop production, agricultural labour and collection of natural resources remain important sources of income for the majority of the Jur qodoq residents. The graph on the right demonstrates the percentages of households in all wealth groups for both crop production and agriculture labour.



All households were engaged in rainfed crop production and agricultural labour. However, "wealthy" and "middle" income households tended to be oriented toward crop production rather than labour, whilst " poor" households tended to be engaged in labour rather than crop production. This can be explained by the input costs, land requirements, and water accessibility needed for crop production. "poor" households are generally less able to access these factors.

The main crops grown in Jur Qoduq are wheat and barley. The table below shows the crop calendar for rainfed wheat and barley in the area. Wheat is harvested during the months of June and July. Barley is harvested during the months of May and June. Wheat and barley are planted only in the winter.



Crop Production Assets: Land Ownership and Draft Oxen

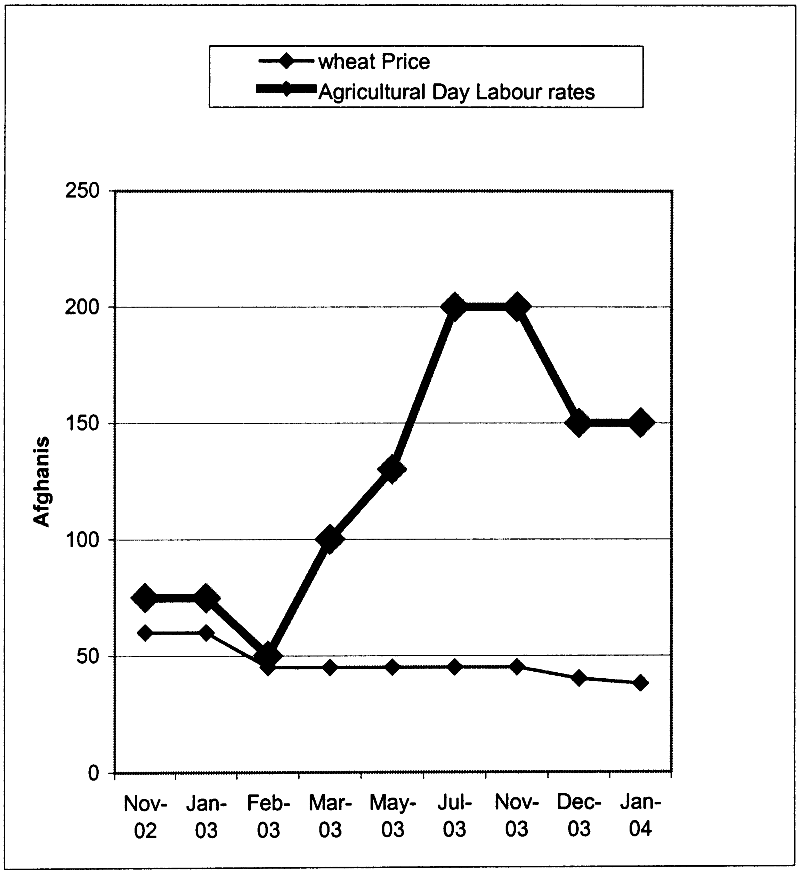
Land ownership is the key livelihood asset for agricultural production. Land ownership patterns are listed in the table below. In Jar Qoduq, 48 percent of households own rainfed land with an average landholding of 27 Jeribs. The average amount of land own differs according to wealth. On average "wealthy" households own 40 Jeribs , "middle" income households, 32 Jeribs and the "poor", 13. Thus, land ownership is a primary indicator for wealth differentiation in the village.

Draft Oxen are extremely important for the crop production. The five "wealthy" households own six draft oxen, "middle" households own 7 draft oxen and the 25 "poor" households own only four draft oxen. Human capital is also an important component of agricultural production in Jar Qoduq, with both women and men working on the farms.

	All Households	Rich	Medium	Poor
Households owning land (%)	48	80	90	24
Average amount of land owned (jeribs)	27.3	40	32	13
Households owning rainfed land (%)	48	80	90	24
Households owning one or more draft oxen (%)	42.5	15	17.5	10

Shocks to Agricultural Yields

In Jar Qodoq area, 48% of households reported 20% to 50% crop losses and five percent of households had more than 50% crop losses by smuts (seed borne) diseases and leaf, stem born diseases such as rust. The leaf and stem borne diseases normally reduce yields by decreasing the photosynthetic area of the plant.



Market Prices of Agricultural Goods

In Sheberghan city market, wheat prices remained constant from February 2003 to January 2004. The current price of around 38 Afghanis per seer (7 kg) is slightly lower than January prices.

As the graph on the left demonstrates, agriculture day labour rates are highest during the harvest, compared to planting time (November to January).

During the 2003 planting season, the daily labour wage was 75 Af's, though 2004 rates during the planting season have since doubled (150 Af's).

Daily labour increased from March 2003, reaching a high of 200 Af's per day from July to November 2003. This period corresponds with spring planting season and the harvest of winter crops. Should wheat prices remain depressed while agriculture labour rates are inflated, input cost will rise so that farmers are forced to stop growing wheat.

LIVESTOCK

Livestock ownership is a primary source of income for 5% of households in Jar Qoduq and 38% of households report some income generation related to livestock. Fifteen percent of women claimed income. Besides selling the livestock and household consumption, post gaaw (cow skin), post buz(goat skin) and qaraqal (sheep) skins can be sold.

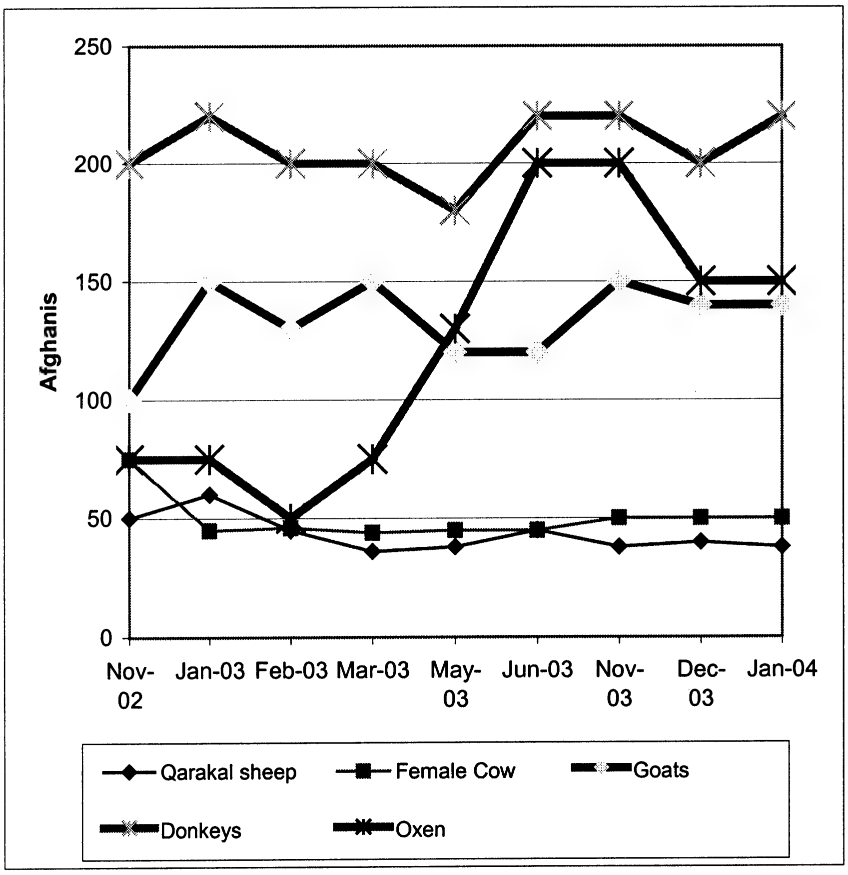
	Goats	Sheep	Draft Oxen	Bulls	Cows	Donkeys	Horses	Camels
Average Number Owned – Better off	9.3	21.7	1.5	0	2.0	1.8	1.0	1.7
Average Number Owned – Medium	8.7	14.4	1.4	1.0	1.3	2.0	0	1.0
Average Number Owned – Poor	4.3	6.0	2.0	0	2.0	1.5	1.0	0

The number of animals owned by a household often indicates status within the community and is used as a method for local wealth ranking. Wealthier households own more animals compared to "middle" and "poor" income households. All "wealthy" household owned Donkeys and 60% of these owned Camels. These animals are particularly important as long distance transport, water fetching and traveling to the market. In comparison, only 44% of the "poor" owned Donkey compared to 80% of "middle" income households. None of the "poor" households owned Camels compared to 10% of the "middle" income households.

Livestock disease

When asked livestock diseases, the male village leaders noted that their sheep and goats were affected by anthrax and PPR (Sheep Pox) and their cattle and oxen had foot and mouth disease. There are a total of 3,000 sheep and goats owned by the people of Jar Qoduq, with 100 reportedly affected by PPR Sheep Pox, a highly contagious disease. This represents a high disease incidence that merits external support.

The cattle owned in the village of Jar Qodoq are 200 cows. The data shows that all cattle owned by the village are affected by foot and mouth disease. Since, both of these diseases are deadly, households should have offered evidence that some of their herd had died recently, but this was not the case. Therefore, it is unlikely that anthrax and PPR are as prevalent as village leaders noted. Additionally, it is unlikely that all cattle and oxen suffered from foot and mouth, though the disease has some presence in the area as it has been a problem in the past. Livestock owners in Jar Qoduq and surrounding areas have not yet had their animals vaccinated and thus their livestock are at risk of suffering from disease outbreaks and epidemics.



Livestock Prices

Jar Qoduq households and surrounding villages rely on Sheberghan city market for selling and purchase of livestock. However, both Jar Qoduq and Chaqma choqor bazaars are both active markets for the nearby communities.

As shown in the graph on the left, prices of sheep and cows remained steady. However, oxen prices increased between February and November 2003, decreasing thereafter. Goat prices were relatively steady around $150 with some seasonal fluctuations.

After draft oxen, the second most important animals are donkeys. This animal usually cost $220, although prices can change seasonally.

Grazing land and Access to Water

According to the village leaders, access to grazing land in Jar Qoduq has not changed in the four months prior to the survey, but productivity of the grassland has decreased, compared of to last year due to lack of rain. Unfortunately, local authorities were not able to use changes in grassland and water access to predict future threats to livestock. Increased awareness of threats to grazing land access might have allowed communities to protect themselves better against drought related animal losses. In addition, common grazing land is sometimes compromised by illegal plantations of rainfed wheat. This practice can also compromises community animal stocks.

EMBROIDERY, CARPETS, GILIMS, WOOL and SILK SPINNING:

Carpet making is primary source of income for 17.5% of households and 35% of Jar Qoduq women. Carpet weaving is engaged for both income generation and household consumption. Though no "wealthy" households make carpet for a wage, 10% of "middle" income and 24% of the "poor" did. Carpet weaving for wages did not usually occur in a separate weaving unit; instead, participants were given material by an investor who paid a set rate dependent on the difficulty of the pattern and the length of carpet completed.

In Jar Qoduq, 12.5% of the households made handicrafts to be sold for cash. No system exists to exchange these activities for wages and no " wealthy" households participated. Further more, only "middle" income households were weaving carpets for an average income of 2,000 Af's about over one month.

	Number of households	Percentage of Households	Average Income Earned in last 4 months (Afs.)
Wool String	12	30	673
Handicrafts	5	12.5	750
Carpets/Gilims	1	2.5	2000

All wealth groupings were involved in wool spinning. There was no income change in either handicraft businesses or craft-making wages over the last four months. Furthermore, no changes in market prices or wool/silk availability were noted and input costs remained the same. However, both men and women observed that households that were engaged in these activities spent more time weaving.

COLLECTION AND SALE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Twenty-eight households were involved in the collection and sale of natural resources. Three were from "wealthy", seven "middle" and 18 "poor" income households. All these households collected and sold bushes and animal manure. Both livelihoods activities were negatively impacted by a recent drought. Lack of rain meant bushes could not grow as well as previously when rainfall had been greater and fewer animals were

present as a result of sale or death during the drought (reduced dung available for collection). The village did not feel the future of these resources would be compromised since the animal stocks would be replenish and bushes are cut above the root areas so they will grow back after the rains.

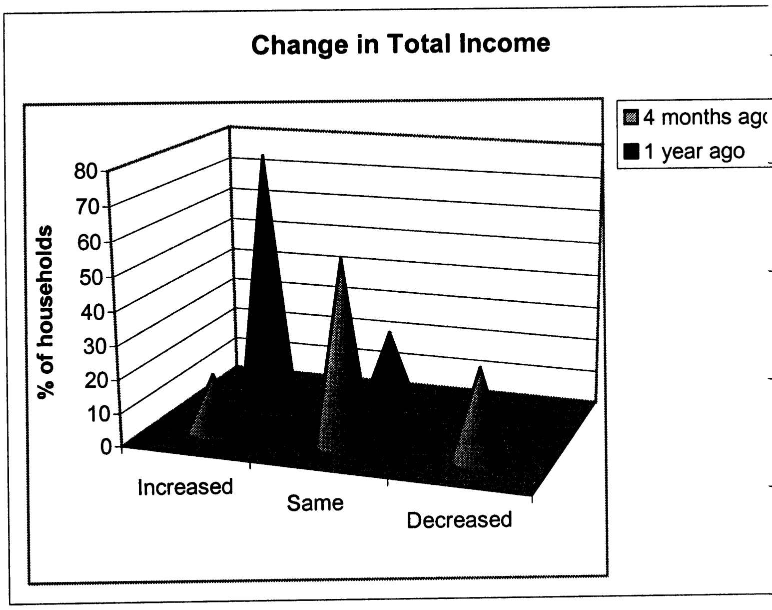
Non-Agricultural Labour (skilled and unskilled manual labour)
In Jar Qodoq, 30% of households claimed it manual labour as an income source. Most (9) households ware from "poor" households, followed by "middle" income households (2) and one "wealthy" households.

OTHER INCOME SOURCES

The only other income source in Jar Qoduq ware loans. Loans were a major source of income for 7.5 percent of the households. Forty five percent of households claimed some income from loans. Of households with loans, 12 were" poor" 4 from the "middle" and two "wealthy" households.

CAPACITY TO COPE: COPING STRATEGIES

The graph on the right shows that income decreased in 28% of households in four month prior to the survey. In the previous year, only 6% of household incomes decreased. Income increases followed the same trend: only 10% of households reported an increase in the last four months compared to 75% in the previous year. This suggests livelihoods are insecure. Households with decreased incomes did not share similar livelihoods, thus it does not appear that a specific shock is responsible. Instead, this might be normal variation.



The coping strategies included here are by no means inclusive of all strategies invoked by households to survive tough times; instead, it focuses on behaviours predictive of declining livelihood and food security in Afghanistan that can be easily measured.

The list was divided into erosive and non-erosive coping strategies in order to understand impact on a household's future livelihood security. The division is not mutually exclusive as the loss of a bicycle, motorcycle or car may impact future livelihood opportunities. Similarly, the order of the list does not reflect a continuum of behaviour. The coping strategies listed are meant to be general indicators of a worsening situation, However, Households experiencing chronic and transitory poverty who engage in these activities on a regular basis.

Non-Erosive Coping Strategies (last four months) (n=40)	Percentage
Household member migrated for labour	-
Begging	-
Sons sent to work as indentured labour	-
Household members worked more hours to make daily expenses	60.0(24)
Households who borrowed food from relatives to make a meal	92.5(37)
Sold Carpet / Gilims from the house	2.5(1)
Sold house furniture	-
Sold house part (windows, doors, roofbeams)	-
Sold bicycle	5.0(2)
Sold jewellery	-
Sold motorcycle / car	0
Consumption of dried bread	2.5(1)

Non-erosive coping strategies
In order to meet expenses, 7.5% of households sold non-productive assets such as carpets/gilims and bicycles. Reasons behind sales varied and may be linked to the arrival of the winter season. Commonly, households sell some of their assets to help prepare for winter. Sixty percent (60%) of households engaged in longer hours of work. Food consumption patterns and sources of food are also key indicators of household vulnerability.

7.5% of families interviewed had been eating dried bread, which clearly highlights food insecurity. In addition to changes in food consumption, some families needed external support to food needs. 92.5% of families had to borrow food from relatives in order to make a meal in the last four months. In the same way, up to 62.5% of households took food on credit from local shop or bakery.

Erosive Coping Strategies (n=40)	Percentage
Household took out loan	45.0
Household sold or mortgaged land, house or shop	-
Households who took food on credit from local shop	62.5
Sold sewing machine	-
Sold loom	2.5
Sold handcart	2.5
Sold grinder	-
Sold tractors / combine / agricultural machinery	-
Marry daughter early	-
Sons sent to work as indentured labour	-
Send son to military	-

Erosive and distress coping strategies

It is apparent that strategies adopted by households to deal with shocks varied with individuals, households and villages. In Jar Qoduq, 45% of households took loans as a coping strategy to meet daily expenses. 12% of these were "poor", while two and four households, were from "wealthy" and "middle" wealth income categories respectively.

Sixty two (62%) percent of households took food on credit from local shops. Five percent of households sold looms and handcraft to meet daily expenses. It is apparent that both "poor" and "middle" households are extremely vulnerable as they jeopardize future production capacity to cover immediate needs.

Income Diversity and Capacity to Cope – Risk to Livelihoods

	Average Income Diversity Score
Wealthy	3.8
Middle	3.8
Poor	3.5
All households	3.6

Capacity to cope is define as the capacity of households to absorb shocks and to adapt to stresses induced by climate, price instability, unemployment and complex emergencies such as political crisis. However, households with various income sources are better able to cope than households who rely on only one or two income sources. The income diversity score is simply a count of the number of income sources for each household. In Jar Qoduq, households have an average income diversity score of 3.6. In many cases the wealthier household often score higher in income diversity measures, however, in this situation all wealth groupings have a similar score. The main sources of income in Jar Qoduq were crop production, collection and sell of natural resources, agricultural day labour and loans

CONCLUSION - LIVELIHOOD SECURITY SUPPORT

Sustainable livelihood requires citizen's participation and methods that will promote and enable the people to make decisions on issues that affect them and their immediate surroundings. Rebuilding village livelihoods is diverse and huge task that calls for multi-sectoral interventions in society. However, its primary use is therefore to choose between these many interventions.

The data shows that income decreased in 28% of households in the four months prior to the survey. In the previous year, only 6% of household incomes decreased. Income increases followed the same trend: only 10% of households reported an increase in the last four months compared to 75% in the previous year. This suggests livelihoods are insecure and there is risk of declining livelihoods in Jar Qoduq.

Further more, 60% of households engaged in longer hours of work and 7.5% of families interviewed had been eating dried bread, which clearly highlights food insecurity. In addition to changes in food consumption, some families needed external support to food needs. 92.5% of families had to borrow food from relatives in order to make a meal in the last four months. In the same way, up to 62.5% of households took food on credit from local shop or bakery.

Water remains the area's biggest concern, in terms of safe drinking water and water to rebuild livestock numbers. Some households have to travel long distances to collect spring water, however much water is wasted and contaminated by activities further up-stream. In areas where there are no springs - water harvesting and management infrastructure for rain and river water is currently inadequate. Water remains the area's biggest concern, in terms of safe drinking water and water to rebuild livestock numbers. Some communities have to travel long distances to collect spring water, however much water is wasted and contaminated by activities further up-stream. In areas where there are no springs - water harvesting and management infrastructure for rain and river water is currently inadequate. Wells are suitable in this district, as, for the most part, sweet water is readily available.

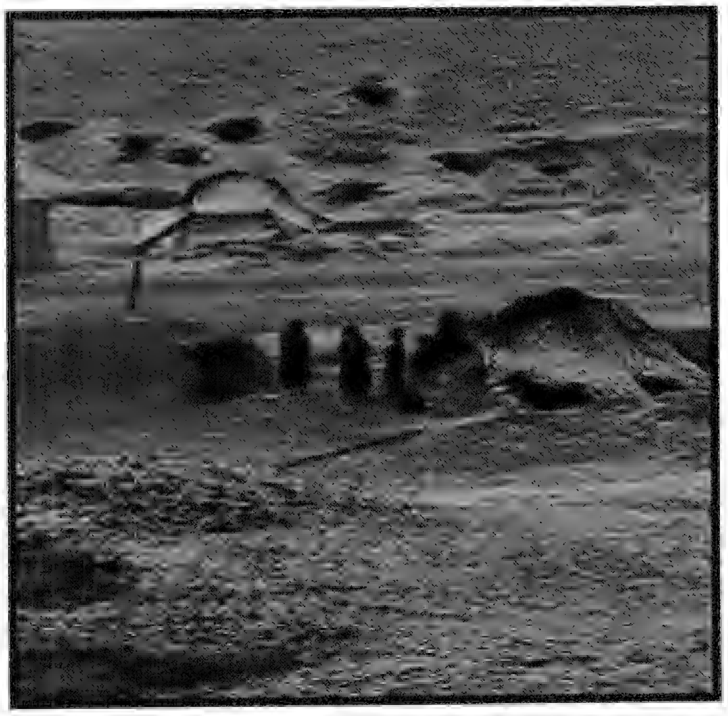
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[1] Information on the methodology can be found in the NSS methodology document on http://www.af/nrva/index_nss.html

[2] In some areas of implementation, the agro-ecological zones used by the 2002 WFP implemented *Country-wide Food Needs Assessment* were used to define livelihood zones.

Jawzjan Surveillance Unit	# National Surveillance System (NSS) Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development, Ministry of Agriculture & Animal Husbandry & Ministry of Health	Darzap/Qoushtapa District Turkman Qodoq Fall 2003

SUMMARY FINDINGS FOR TURKMAN QODOQ SENTINEL SITE IN SOUTHERN JAWZJAN PROVINCE-DARZAP/QOSHTIPA DISTRICTS (These findings are based on field survey of 40 households and male and female focus group interview. These findings should not be assumed to representative of other parts of Afghanistan)



Contents of Bulletin

The report is organized so that for each sentinel site in Kohistan, key indicators representing the main components of each of these three categories are presented and discussed in a narrative format

Food security

- Seven percent of households felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food in the past four months.
- Ten percent of families interviewed consider the food situation worse than four months ago.
- Furthermore, 80% of the households did worry how they would purchase/cultivate food.

Risk to live

- The mortality rate was above both the emergency threshold rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 people per day and the normal developing country level of 0.5 deaths/10,000 people per day. Furthermore, Turkman Qodud rate of children less than five years of age was also above the global accepted threshold emergency rate of 2 deaths per 10 000 people per day.
- Water, blood diarrhea and acute respiratory infection appear to be very common in children less than five years of age in Turkman Qodoq.

Livelihood Security

- Up to 13% of households sold non-productive assets such as carpets/gilims in order to meet expenses. About 50% of households engaged in longer hours of work.
- Approximately, 20% of households took loans as a coping strategy to meet daily expenses. Some (5%) interviewed households had been eating dried bread, which clearly highlights food insecurity. In addition to changes in food consumption, some families needed external support to food needs. 92.5% of families had to borrow food from relatives in order to make a meal in the last four months. In the same way, up to 75% of households took food on credit from local shop or bakery.

What is the NSS?
The National Surveillance System monitors trends in key indicators in order to predict early signs of change and deterioration in livelihoods, food security and nutrition. In conjunction with other complementary data collection systems, the NSS provides relevant data for prioritizing limited resources and designing programs.

Methodology
The NSS is based on a sentinel site system, in which provincial level ministries follow a rotating cohort of households over time. Sites are selected so that they mirror the majority of the communities with respect to agro-ecological features, economic activities, available services and people in a given area (livelihood / agro-ecological zone). Because of the diversity of livelihoods in Afghanistan, even in rural areas, information from the sentinel may not be representative of every village in the zone. However, it is likely, that the data from one sentinel site can signal concern for other villages in the same zone (See Annex I for detailed information on methodology).

OBJECTIVES OF REPORT

- Provide current information on household food security status in Darzap/Qoshtipa District
- Provide information on risk to lives and nutritional risk of individuals in Darzap/Qoshtipa District
- Provide information on the current household livelihood security situation in Darzap/Qoshtipa District, specifically looking at current shocks to livelihoods and the ability of households to adapt to (cope with) these shocks
- Develop a better understanding of the vulnerability and risk of communities and households in Darzap/Qoshtipa in relation to issues of food security, mortality, health and nutrition.

Additionally, this report provides baseline information on indicators that are unique to a local area and have not yet been explored in the depth needed for use in guiding programmes and policies. They are:

- Characteristics of household wealth in Darzap/Qoshtipa district
- Livelihood Strategies employed in Darzap/Qoshtipa District
- Presence of morbidity, mortality and malnutrition in rural communities in Darzap/Qoshtipa district

And finally, the report aims to provide information on how government and other agencies can use this increased understanding of livelihoods, vulnerability and risk in order to design and prioritise effective policies and programme interventions.

Darzap District

The district of Darzab is located in the southern tip of Jawzjan Province. Darzab has a population of 59,024 and a land area of 1,337 sq km. In addition, after, more than two decades of war and conflict in the area, Khostipa area which was part of the Darzap district, now consider a separate district from Darzap. However, this is not officially recognized district yet even though they are operating as a district level. The two sentinal sites of this report are located in Khostipa area.

Khostipa is a rural self- declared district found in Southern part of Jawzjan province and Northern section of the Darzap district. The area includes settlements of Pashton Kuchi. Although traditionally nomadic, the Kuchi have, of late, been forced into a more sedentary lifestyle with many now living in settlements throughout the year. They are landless and have traditionally been wealthy livestock herders. Conflict, drought and intimidation/theft by Commanders have, however, destroyed their livestock and reduced the Kuchi communities to limited income generating enterprises such as casual labour and collecting and selling animal dung in local markets. These groups of people are particularly vulnerable due to the fact they are Pashton in a predominantly Uzbek region. It is particularly important that the pressure on the scant resources is lessened in Kuchi areas, where the needs of the Kuchi people causes local tensions and protection risks. The Kuchi population have independently identified water and access to education as their greatest need.

In this report Khostipa was divided into two distinct livelihood zones. A sentinel site was chosen from each zone.

LIVELIHOOD ZONES FOR QOSHTIPA DISTRICT

Livelihood zones in Qoshtipa can be divided into two distinct agro-ecological areas. These distinctions impact household livelihood patterns, and one study or one sentinel site was selected from each area. Most of the province consists of mountainous, rainfed farm land valleys, this report will focus on a Nomadic (Kuchi people) in Jawzjan(See picture).

Zone two: Rainfed and Nomadic Kuchi Desert land. Turkman Qodoq. Zone two encompasses an area of undulating ephemeral pasture land and desert between Sheberghan, Khojodoko and Qoshtipa (Southern Jawzjan province), Dawlatabad and Andkhoy (Eastern Faryab province). North-west site of the Khostipa and Southwest part of JawzJan Province. Livestock is the main sources for these villages, but they also have rainfed small scale agriculture.



This area is the traditional rangeland of the Kuchi, a nomadic pastoralist tribe of Pashton ethnicity who came to the area from Paktia Province over 100 years ago. There are approximately 10,000 "tents" or family units, each one made up of an average of 6 members.

GENERAL Turkman Qodoq INFORMATION

	Average Household Size
Wealthy	**8.0**
Middle	**6.5**
Poor	**4.7**
All Households	**5.6**

Turkman Qodoq, the sentential site chosen to represent the 12 Kuchi villages of the surrounding Dasht-i-laili desert. The Dasht-i-Laili (Laili's desert[1]) is the name given to an area of undulating ephemeral pasture land and desert between Sheberghan, Khojodoko and Qoshtipa (Southern Jawzjan province), Dawlatabad and Andkhoy (Eastern Faryab province). The land typically receives less than 200 mm of rainfall and is demarcated as pasture land by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry (MOAAH). This area is the traditional rangeland of the Kuchi, a nomadic pastoralist tribe of Pashton ethnicity who came to the area from Kandahar Province over 100 years ago. There are approximately 10,000 "tents" or family units, each one made up of an average of 6 members.

The Kuchi (meaning Nomadic in Pashton) are one of the nomadic-pastoralist groups in Afghanistan. They are of mostly Pashton ethnic origin, and are thought to make up approximately 10% of the population of Afghanistan, being confined mostly to the south and southwest of the country, in parts of the north. King Abdur Rahman Khan granted the Kuchi grazing rights to Hazara land in the 1890's. The Kuchi were thus backed by the Royal Pashton court in Kabul who valued one Pashton life as worth 1,000 camels, and one camel's life as six times a Hazara life. These lands were lost to the Hazars less than a century later following land reforms after the invasion of the Soviets in December 1978.

Kuchi's generally remain in Turkman Qodoq over winter months, then around 50% of households move out into rangeland in March until July, returning to their settlements (Turkman Qodoq) from August until the following In Jawzjan province, the Kuchi's way of life was changing before the civil war (post-USSR), and they were adopting a more transient lifestyle, with seasonal rather than constant migration. Over the last 10 years however, some have also been growing crops such as wheat, barley, sesame and flax on their rangelands, and abandoning their traditional black tents for mud-brick houses. This is partly as a result of a change in

[1] Laili is the name of a woman in an Afghan legend.

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preferences, and partly a risk aversion strategy; in the light of the drought they see arable farming as less risky since livestock cannot be replaced in short period compared to a crop production. In addition, a more sedentary lifestyle arises from the removal of the necessity to move by the depletion of their stocks. Many people living in houses are also those who have lost their tents (either through being forced to sell them, or having them stolen or destroyed by the commanders).

There is no formal school in the Turkman Qodoq village. Both boys and girls go to the Madarassa school (Islamic qoran school). Education was not a priority for the Kuchi, and adult literacy is very low. In recent years however they have begun to see the value of education and how this could afford them more employment opportunities. Their nomadic lifestyle means that a more creative solution to this issue would need to be sought. Furthermore, there are no health facilities

Wealth Households: 12.5 percent (5 households)

Households that have more than 80 sheep, wool spinning, weaving namad privately and having rainfed land.

--women--

These households have between 10-20 sheep, cows and having rainfed land, with more than two sources of income

--men--

Middle Households: 35 percent (14 households)

These households have only one house. They have whatever is needed in their houses. They often own a shop, one motorcycle, or a shop or a house.

--women--

These households don't have cars and land. They have a house and limited number of livestock (20 – 30). They don't do daily/manual labour jobs, but some often engage in casual labour. Many of these households have shops.

--men--

Poor Households: 52.5 percent (21 households)

Household with limited assets. Households who are casual labour and have no access to land.

--women--

Household with limited assets. Households who are casual labour and have no access to land.

--men--

The community categorized households into three different wealth groups, or socio-economic categories. The table below describes the type of features characterizing each wealth group and the percentage of households falling in each category. These socio-economic groups will be used throughout the report to understand how food security, livelihood security and risk to lives may be different for households of different socio-economic status. There is a large difference in the household size between the wealthy and the other two groups that the enumerators attribute to a few different reasons. *It is seen that the rich men have more than one wife at a time* and so bear children from both wives and that the sons of rich families do not separate from the family after marriage. In addition, members of poorer families may migrate to find work and so contribute to a smaller family.

Gender was found to be critical in the household structure and processes that relate to rural livelihood security. The data shows unequal gender relations at household level. To a large extent, household headship determines the access of the household to assets and resources, division of labour, decision-making, power and livelihood strategies.

Female-headed households tend to diversify their activities to earn income in cash and in kind. Gender was identified as an important factor in using indigenous knowledge in enhancing livelihood security. Both men and women were found to possess indigenous knowledge. Women's indigenous knowledge is essential for ensuring household food security, maternal health and child care and income generation through weaving fiber clothes, production of carpets, and handicraft. Their knowledge is not limited in food production and post harvest processes. men utilize their indigenous knowledge in agricultural production, carving and traditional medicines .

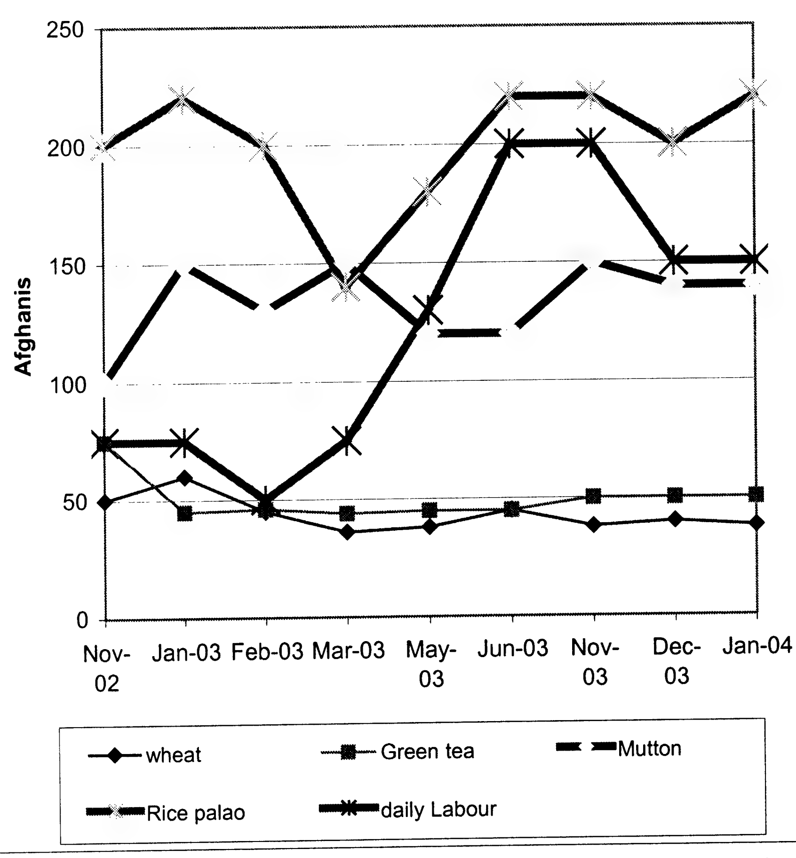
FOOD SECURITY - QanJogha

The food security section of this report looks at certain indicators representing the access, availability and quality components of food security. The main role of these indicators is to monitor household's current food security status as well as to provide information on the nature of the food insecurity.

MARKET ACCESS

Sheberghan city is the closest food market to Qanjogha, accessible by highway (two hours by foot or donkey).The road is part of the Afghanistan Northern only highway and is in relatively good condition. According to this survey, some travel by vehicle (10 Af's per trip) but this cost may vary according to the person's location in the village. Most QanJogha residents access Sheberghan market to trade wheat and livestock, and also purchase food and non-food items. The largest trade by women is carpet sales. Market transactions are cash based and most households send one person to the market on market day (Mondays and Thursdays, weekly). The market is open year-round and is one of the most important trading for local districts, JawzJan and the surrounding provinces.

Location of Market	Time taken to reach market		Cost of getting to market	Market Accessible in winter
	Vehicle	Foot		
Shaberqhan Market	20 minutes	1 hours	10 Afs	Yes



MARKET PRICES

QanJogha household rely on Sheberghan market for food and non-food items, 50% of households purchase wheat. Wheat prices have been stable over the past year and impact daily labour rates since many workers are paid in wheat for work. When prices decrease, whilst labour rates increase, it becomes more profitable to work for wheat compared to growing own crop.

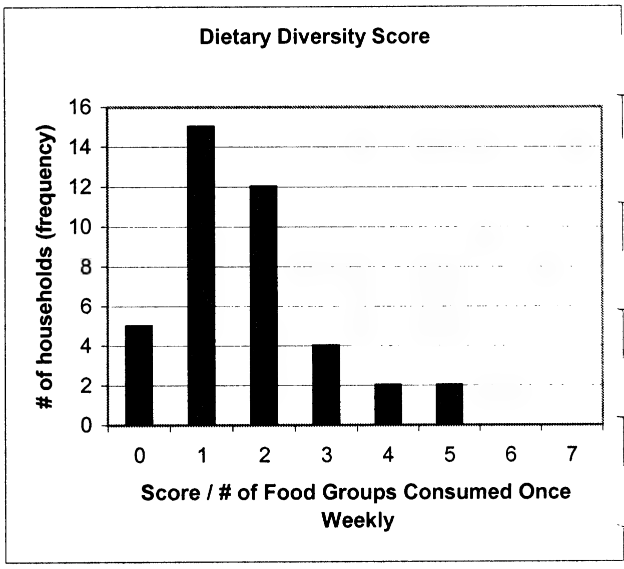
As shown on the graph to the left, wheat and green tea prices have been stable this year. However, daily labour rates increased from March 2003 reaching a peak of 200 Af's per day in June. Rates then began decreasing on November. The same trends held for both rice and mutton. Rice prices reached a peak of 220 Af's per Kg from January, June and November 2003 and January 2004. Mutton prices reached a maximum price of 150 Af's in January, March and November 2003.

Mutton and rice increases directly impact village food security since these are staple food items. Households also purchase vegetable items (potatoes, spring onions, okra and carrots) from Sheberghan market: prices have remained steady. There are seasonal shortages of some vegetables, though this does not seem to impact vegetable prices nor is demand increased during off-season. Households simply purchase what is available at that time in the market.

DIETARY DIVERSITY - DIET QUALITY

Dietary diversity is a major component of food security. Previous studies show that Afghani dietary habits are not normally diverse and consequently, there is an increased risk of micronutrient deficiency disorders and related diseases. It is not entirely clear how dietary preferences and food availability interact to determine household diet patterns. To better understand diet quality over the past four months, surveyors asked householders how frequently they ate foods from different food groups. These results were summarized in a dietary diversity score to capture dietary quality and household diet patterns. Household dietary diversity scores are summarized in the graph on the right.

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The diversity score is calculated by attributing **a score of "1" to each food group that was eaten at least once weekly** by the household. Households with a higher diversity score have a more diverse diet. Surveys repeated throughout the country indicate that most households consume cereals or grains on a daily basis and thus, cereals were not included in the diet diversity score. On average all households combined in QanJogha had a dietary diversity, score of 1.7. Fifteen out of 40 households scored "1", 12 households scored "2".

Diversity scores improved with increased wealth with a relative scores of 5.00, 2.57 and 1.44 for "wealthy", "middle" and "poor" households respectively. These results suggest that "wealthy" households either have the means to buy more expensive foods or, have acquired a preference for a more diverse diet. As some households had scores of six and seven, it suggests that a variety of food groups are available from the Sheberghan city market. However, it is uncertain if the varieties of food available are seasonal, imported during the off-season or, produced locally.

The table below reflects the average frequency of consumption for food groups during the last four months (excluding Ramadan and festivals times) by wealth group and for all households. The data shows that all households are eating protein rich foods (meat, milk, eggs, and pulses) at least once a month to once a week to complement cereals (wheat and barley). However this data does not allow inferences regarding protein sufficiency.

Household protein choices differ according to wealth. "Wealthy" and "middle" households eat meat weekly, whereas "poor" households only eat meat two to three times a month. "Wealthy" households drink milk two to three times a month compared to once a month in "medium" and "poor" households. "Middle" households have eggs two to three times a month while both the "wealthy" and "poor" eat eggs only once a month. Adequacy of protein intake cannot be inferred from this data, although a decrease in the frequency of protein food choices per month in households might indicate a decline in food security and increased poverty.

In the last four months, all households appear to be eating less green vegetable. "Wealthy" households eat green leafy vegetable twice a week where "middle'" and "poor" households were eating vegetables at least two to three times a month. The other vegetables of onion, carrots, okra and eggplant were eaten by "wealthy" households once a week where "poor" and "middle" wealth groups eat these two to three times a month. In comparison, "wealthy" households eat fruits three to five times a week where "middle" households eat fruits once a week and two to three times for the "poor" households.

As data regarding quantities and consumption practices were not collected, no inferences can be made regarding the adequacy of vitamin and mineral intakes. Nonetheless, this data suggests some areas needing additional research include:

1. Vitamin A sufficiency (animal sources and beta-carotene from plant sources);
2. Calcium sufficiency (milk and water, most water is hard, sources), and;
3. Vitamin C sufficiency (fresh plant sources).

These concerns are based on the frequency of consumption reported by households and the limited availability of these foods compared to other items.

Average Frequency of Food Group Consumption by Wealth Group

Wealth Group	Meat	Milk, Yogurt, Krut, etc	Eggs	Pulses	Green Leafy Vegetables	Other Vegetables	Fruits
Wealth	4.00	3.0	2.0	5.0	5.0	4.0	6.0
Middle	3.7	2.3	2.6	4.6	2.4	3.0	4.3
Poor	3.4	2.1	1.7	4.5	2.5	2.7	2.6
All households	3.5	2.2	1.9	4.5	2.5	2.8	3.0

1 = Never Eat
2 = Once a month or less
3 = 2 to 3 times a month
4 = Once Weekly
5 = Twice Weekly
6 = 3 to 5 times Weekly
7 = Always

FOOD SECURITY PERCEPTION

Household perception of food security is an important indicator of current food security status. Four households (10%) consider the food situation worse than four months ago. Of this 10 %, 5 % were from the poor wealth household, and 5% were from the "middle" income households. Three household (7.5%) of village people consider that food situation was worse than one year ago. Of this 7.5 %, 5% were from the "poor" households and 2.5% were from the "wealthy" households. Furthermore, seven households (17.5%) felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food in the past four months. Of these households, four were from the "poor", two "middle" households and one from the "poor" households.

None of the interviewed households thought their food security would worsen over the next four months, though many expressed uncertainty about how they could predict changes in food security in their home. Nonetheless, 80% did worry about how they would purchase/cultivate food. Of these households, 45% were "poor", 27.5% from the "middle" grouping, and 7.7% "wealthy". Enumerators observed that four of the "poor" households and two of the "middle" did not appear to have enough food to survive the winter.

As data regarding quantities and consumption practices were not collected, no inferences can be made regarding the adequacy of vitamin and mineral intakes. Nonetheless, this data suggests some areas needing additional research include:

1. Vitamin A sufficiency (animal sources and beta-carotene from plant sources);
2. Calcium sufficiency (milk and water, most water is hard, sources), and;
3. Vitamin C sufficiency (fresh plant sources).

These concerns are based on the frequency of consumption reported by households and the limited availability of these foods compared to other items.

PERCEPTION OF FOOD SECURITY INDICATORS	**Percentage** out of 40 households
Consider food situation to be **worse** than 4 months ago	10.0
Consider food situation to be **worse** in comparison to one year ago	7.5
Consider food situation **not** to be **enough** in the last four months	17.7
Worried where their food was coming from at the time of the survey	80.0
Think the food situation will be **worse** in the next 4 months	0
Enumerators thought households did **not** have **enough** food for the next 4 months	15%

CONCLUSION: FOOD SECURITY

Most of Kuchi Households lost a large proportion of their livestock during the drought years and raids by local commanders. The year (2003) however, has been a good year and in some areas the numbers of animals are starting to recover. Moreover, the amount of winter forage being colleted is more than adequate and as a consequence of good nutritional status stocks are expected to begin to recover and return their pre-drought numbers. In addition, the bumper harvest has given some Kuchi good opportunities to earn money through labour and they were quick to reinvest this into their flocks. However this year (2004) the average amount of rain was less than (2003) and their recovery is still severely hampered by lack of access to land, raids by commanders and heavy "taxes" which they impose. In addition, severe land degradation by the cereal farmers will cause long-term losses in productivity in the area, and even desertification.

Pasturelands represent up to 84% of the country. The nomadic pastoral communities and their livestock are among the best-described topics in Afghanistan. The Kuchi population have self-identified water and access to education as their greatest need.

- Seven percent of households felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food in the past four months. Ten percent of families interviewed consider the food situation worse than four months ago.
- Furthermore, 80% of the households did worry how they would purchase food.
- Five percent of families interviewed had been eating dried bread, which clearly highlights food insecurity. Most (92.5%) of families had to borrow food from relatives in order to make a meal in the last four months. In the same way, up to 75% of households took food on credit from local shop or bakery.

The Kuchi estimate that in order to make a basic living, each family requires 50 sheep and goats. These can be broken down as follows: 12 pay for wheat and oil, 10 are sold to increase flock size and replace old females etc. 8 are sold to buy sugar and tea and non food items, 5 are lost to disease and predation by wolves etc.

10 are sold to purchase items and services relating to the flock such as drugs.
Water remains the area's biggest concern, in terms of safe drinking water and water to rebuild livestock numbers. Some communities have to travel long distances to collect spring water, however much water is wasted and contaminated by activities further up-stream. In areas where there are no springs - water harvesting and management infrastructure for rain and river water is currently inadequate. Wells are suitable in this district, as, for the most part, *sweet* water is readily available.

The greatest immediate need to sustain these populations and improve continuing untenable living conditions is to provide improved water capture and improved management to ensure equitable access to meet such basic human needs and to promote hygiene awareness at the village level. A maintenance and operations training programme is also required to ensure sustainability of these infrastructure inputs by the establishment of a functioning water management committee in each village.

RISKS TO LIVES – Turkman Qodoq

MORTALITY INDICATORS:
The current crude mortality rate (CMR) of 1.29 in Turkman Qodoq is above both the emergency threshold rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 people per day and the normal developing country level of 0.5 deaths/10,000 people per day. This is higher than the normal limit for the Jawjzan province zones and therefore is a significant cause for concern. The children under five years of age mortality rate of 3.4 does not compare favourably with the stable developing country rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 people per day and is more than the emergency threshold rate of 2.0 deaths/10,000 people per day. Because of the high rate of maternal and child mortality, this study also looked at the number of children who had a skilled birth attendant present at delivery as a proxy for risk to lives of both the mothers giving birth and the new infants. In the last 4 months, only one child was recorded as being born and the child did not have a skilled birth attendant at birth.

RISKS TO LIVES INDICATORS	Percentage (%)
Mortality Indicators	
Crude mortality in last 4 months (Deaths / 10, 000 / day)	1.29
Under 5 mortality in last 4 months (Deaths / 10, 000 / day)	3.4
Births in last 4 months attended by a Skilled Birth Attendant (n=4)	0
Morbidity Indicators	
Children < 5 years with watery diarrhoea (n=35)	33
Children < 5 years with bloody diarrhoea (n=35)	4.2
Children < 5 with ARI (n=35)	35
Children between 6 and 59 months with measles vaccination (n=28)	74
Child Anthropometric Status (WFH % of median)	
Children with global acute malnutrition (Oedema/Severe/Moderate) (n=46)	13[2]
Children > 6 months and <59 months with Oedema (n=46)	2.1
Children > 6 and <59 months with severe acute malnutrition (n=46)	6.5
Children > 6 and <59 months with moderate acute malnutrition (n=46)	4.3
Children > 1 year and <59 months with a MUAC under 13.5 cm (n=46)	15.9
Children > 1 year and <59 months with a MUAC under 12 cm (n=44)	6.8
Adult Women Anthropometric Status	
Reproductive age women (15-49 years) with a MUAC < 23.0 cm (n=45)	8.9
Reproductive age women (15-49 years) with a MUAC < 21.0 cm (n=45)	4.4
Micronutrient Deficiencies	
Households with iodised salt (only includes households with salt) (n=40)	0

MORBIDITY INDICATORS:
The morbidity indicators included in the surveillance system are associated with a risk of mortality and are the primary causes of death for children under 5 in Afghanistan. The incidence of watery diarrhoea among children under five years of age in Turkman Qodoq was 33% and is high enough to cause concern. The presence of 4.2 of children under 5 having bloody diarrhoea in the village is a high concern. Many of the cases of diarrhoeal disease might be attributed to hygiene practices and a shortage of water. The percent of children under 5 suffering from Acute Respiratory Infections was 35%. Measles vaccination coverage in Afghanistan is 95%, and MOH figures for the DARZAP District report coverage to be 100%. World Health Organization (WHO) And Ministry of Health (MOH) sponsored measles vaccination campaigns in Darzap/Khoshtapa in June, 2003. Additionally, the measles vaccination coverage of 63% in this round of data coverage is inconsistent with other figures.

[2] (CI: 12.9 to 13.1): The confidence interval is calculated for a random sample with a small (finite) population.

CHILDREN NUTRITIONAL STATUS:

Global acute malnutrition of (13%) was common in children less than 5 years of age. Of those children with acute malnutrition (2.2%) had Oedema. Severe acute malnutrition (6.5%) was much more common among children 6-59 months of age then moderate acute malnutrition (4.3%). Severe and moderate acute malnutrition were a very common problem affecting among children 6-59 months of age in Turkman Qodoq.

Low MUAC measurements also indicate children at risk of mortality. The presence of 16% of children with a MUAC lower than 13.5 cm and 6.4 % of children with a MUAC less than 12.0 cm is currently overwhelming public health problem among the children between 12-59 months of age of the village.

ADULT WOMEN NUTRITIONAL STATUS:

Low MUACs in reproductive-age women has been associated with high child and maternal mortality making it an important indicator for increased risks to adult women mortality. However, Severe and moderate malnutrition among women of reproductive age in Turkman Qodoq was not greatly elevated; 9% of women have a MUAC below 23.0 cm and 4.4 % of women a MUAC below 21.0 cm. Furthermore, many women of the village have mild malnutrition or at risk of being malnutrition

MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES:

The presence of iodised salt in the house is a proxy for the use of it and also therefore of iodine deficiency. Iodine deficiency is a serious health problem among women as indicated by the high occurrence of goitre. No households had iodised salt as all salt was obtained from locally deposits or mined block salt. However, Iodised salt is available in Sheberghan market since January, 2004, and there is Iodised salt factory in Pul-e-khorasan which is part of Sheberghan city. However, the consistence produce and the potential future production iodised salt from this new factory is not tested yet.

HEALTH FACILITIES:

The table below lists the health services and facilities that are available to the people of the Turkman Qodoq village. However, there are no health facilities in Turkman Qodoq itself and all the residents of the neighbouring villages travel to Sheberghan City (the provincial capital city) to use the Sheberghan City's health services or Khoshtipa clinic that was built by Goal (Irish NGO). Sheberghan City has two main hospitals, four comprehensive health centres and 30 private doctors.

In Turkman Qodoq itself, there are number of traditional birth attendants (TBA) to help the village women with birth deliveries. The birth attendant usually comes to the woman's house for services. The common custom of TBA in this village and the surrounding areas is that there are no fixed charges for the TBA services and, as such, every household pays what they are able to afford and in accordance with their class in the community. The TBA fee ranges from 0 to 100 Afs and can be in cash or kind. Many households in this village pay to their TBA services using food and non-food items.

All the Government health services in Sheberghan City are free of charge, and as a result they are used largely by "poor" and "middle" income families. The "wealthy" class of Turkmanqodoq and the surrounding area goes to private doctors which charge 40 Afs for a visit. Many people believe that the services of a private doctor are better than those of the government and if one is able to afford 40 Afs he/she should go to the private doctor. Medicine needs to be paid for in both cases. There are also skilled birth attendants in Sheberghan City hospitals and additionally there is a private service that people may use in the case of severe emergencies or complications. This type of private service is very expensive. Travel to Sheberghan is possible in all seasons, including winter. The use of health facilities has stayed steady in the last four months.

Health Facilities Table

	Location of facility	Time taken to reach facility	Cost of getting to the facility (Afs)	Access to facility	Facility Accessible in winter and Spring
Health posts	Sheberghan	2 hours	4000	Everybody	Yes
Basic Health Centre	Sheberghan	2 hours	4000	Everybody	Yes
Comprehensive Health Centre	Sheberghan	2 hour	4000	Everybody	Yes
Hospital	Sheberghan?	2 hours	4000	Everybody	Yes
Traditional healers/Birth Attendants	Turkman Qodoq	30 minuts	--	Women Only	Yes
Skilled birth attendant	Sheberghan	2 hours	4000	Women Only	Yes
Private doctor	Sheberghan	2 hours	4000	Everybody	Yes

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WATER SOURCES:

Water remains the area's biggest concern, in terms of safe drinking water and water to rebuild livestock numbers. These communities travel long distances to collect spring water, however much water is wasted and contaminated by activities further up-stream. In areas where there are no springs - water harvesting and management infrastructure for rain and river water is currently inadequate.

Drinking Water Source Table

(Source listed in order of use)	Time taken for water collection	Quality change since last year	Quantity change since last year
Open well	< 1 hour	Same	Increased
Buy water	1 to 3 hours	Same	Same
Hand pump	< 1 hour	Same	Increased

The source of drinking water for Turkmanqodoq village was open wells and most of households in Turkman Qodoq purchased water from the outside villages. The quality of the open wells stayed the same whereas the quantity of water decreased. During the survey and after the survey Goal (Irish NGO) built six hand pumps which is a preferential source of water in comparison to the open wells on account of its water being considered sweet.

The people report that the quality of the water has not changed since the previous year, but the quantity of underground water is reported to have increased, probably due to the better rainfall in the last year. The number one priority for the village is to get more access to good drinking water through the construction of more hand pumps/ or deep wells with motor pumps (as the Andkhoy region has a reliable source of electricity)

SANITATION FACILITIES:

There is no toilet facility used by the people of Turkman Qodoq. People use an open field and this is one of the major causes of public health problems in the village.

CONCLUSION: RISKS TO LIVES

The crude mortality is above both the emergency threshold rate of deaths of people per day and the normal developing country level of deaths of people per day. Furthermore, Children under 5 years of age, mortality rate does not compare favourably with the stable developing country rate and is more than the emergency threshold rate of deaths people per day. The survey demonstrated that the children of Turkman Qodoq were in a condition of poor health and it can be preventable and treatable.

In Turkman Qoduq, water and sanitation are completely inadequate and presumably these are the main factors attributing the rates of both water and blood diarrhoea. This should be improved as rapidly as possible. Goal (Irish NGO) has build one reservoir for the people of Turkman Qodoq and many more is needed. In addition, adequate preventive and curative health facilities and services should be available and accessible to the village community.

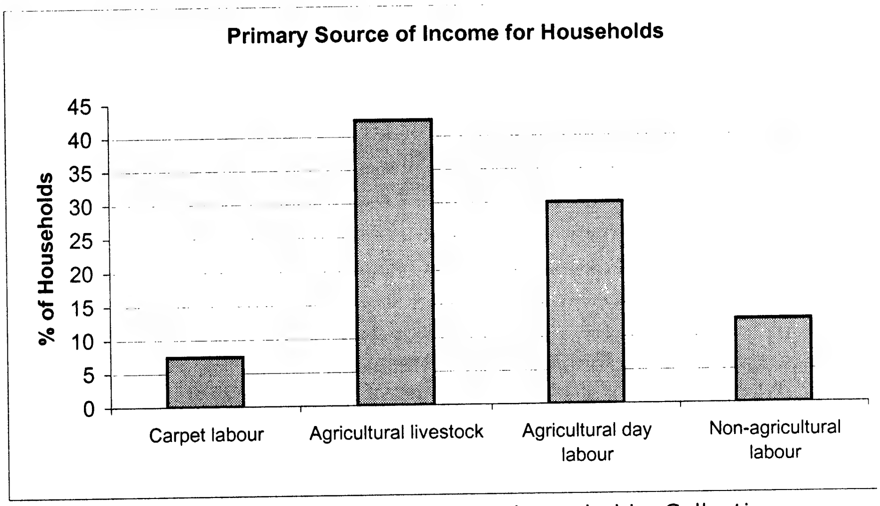
A mass measles vaccination campaign is in need in this village. Measles vaccination coverage is poor and is probably not interrupting measles virus transmission. Moreover, community training of public health is essential need, introducing the community to toilets and other sanitation programmes will improve the condition of Turkman Qodoq health problems.

LIVELIHOOD SECURITY - Turkmanqodoq

The Livelihood Security section is structured to give a general overview of the livelihood strategies of the community and the households within the community. It then looks at the main livelihood strategies of these households, describing the state of the livelihood assets related to each particular income source. This section also seeks to provide indicators of current shocks to livelihood sources and households' abilities to cope with these shocks. This information is also intended to provide agencies with sufficient information to decide whether there is a need to respond to a current shock. It finishes by looking at the characteristics of households that are at high risk of being impacted by future shocks and offering recommendations on how agencies can develop household livelihood opportunities, mitigate against future shocks and protect against livelihood asset depletion.

LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES:

Livestock production was the most important income source for all Turkman Qodoq households, in all wealth categories, from June to September 2003. Secondary and tertiary income sources were agricultural day labour, and non-agricultural labour respectively. For both "poor" and "medium" wealth groups, agricultural day-labour was the second most important income source, whilst non-agricultural labour formed a significant contribution to income in poor households.



The table below captures the percentage of households engaged in different activities, giving a sense of the relative importance of the different livelihood strategies to the community. Livestock production was the primary income generation activity for 17 of 40 households. Collecting natural resources was a source of income for 37 households with Agricultural labour being an income source for 31 households. Furthermore, Agricultural livestock (33) and Non-agricultural day labour (18) were important income sources for Turkmanqodoq households.

	Percent of households with Income Source	% of Households with Women's Income Source
Spinning/ Carpets Labour	15.0	30.0
Trade / Shops	--	5.0
Spinning/ Carpets Business	15.0	17.5
Agricultural Labour	77.5	--
Agricultural Livestock	82.5	47.5
Non-agricultural day labour	45.0	--
Take a Loan	20.0	2.5
Microbusiness	2.5	--
Agricultural Crops	2.5	--
Collection–natural resources	92.5	10.0
Formal Wage Labour	0.0	--
Informal Wage Labour	7.5	--
Remittances	2.5	--
Rental Income	--	--
Gifts/Gleaning	27.5	25.0
Repayment of Loan	--	--
Begging	5.0	5.0

Data regarding women's income generation can clarify the role of woman in current livelihood strategies and identify potential for future involvement. Most women (47.5%) keep livestock production, followed by made carpets for wage (30%), Carpet weaving for business, collection of natural resources and gifts were, equally, the third most important source of income.

Dairy production was the greatest Kuchi female contribution to household incomes for women of all categories. In "poor" and "middle" income households dairy production accounted for 20 % of income generation activity, compared to only 7.5% "wealthy" households.

Carpet labour was the second female contribution to household income for women of all wealth categories. In "poor" and "middle" income households carpet weaving accounted for 20% and 10% respectively of income generation activity, only women in "poor" and "middle" households participated in carpet labour income activities. Furthermore, carpet for business, gifts/gleaning and collection of natural resources were important income sources for "middle" and the "poor" households. Furthermore, activities most important to men tended to less important to women. However, all women received income from gifts, which men of all wealth groups did not consider an income source.

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LIVESTOCK

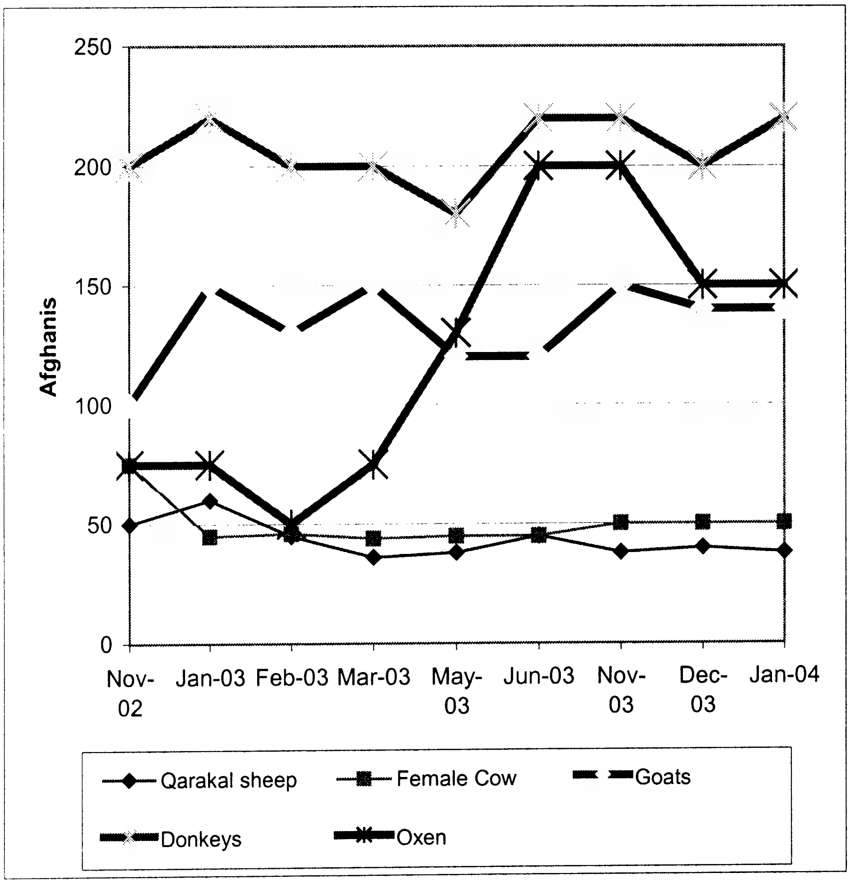
	Goats	Sheep	Donkeys	Camels
Average Number Owned – Wealthy	7.8	35.6	1.6	2.4
Average Number Owned – Mididle	3.1	16.3	1.3	1.4
Average Number Owned – Poor	3.8	5.9	1.0	2.3

Livestock ownership is a primary source of income for 42.5% of households in Turkman Qodoq and 82.5% of households report some income generation related to livestock production. Forty seven percent of women claimed income from animal products. Besides selling the livestock and household consumption, post gaaw (cow skin), post buz (goat skin) and qaraqal (sheep) skins can be sold.

The number of animals owned by a household often indicates status within the community. Wealthier households own more animals compared to ''middle'' and ''poor'' income households. All wealth households owned Donkeys and Camels. These animals are particularly important as long distance transport, water fetching and traveling to the market. All ''wealth'' households own Donkey and Camels. In comparison, only 64% of the ''poor'' owned Donkey compared to 84% of ''middle'' income households. Only 36% of the ''poor'' households owned Camels compared to 61% of the ''middle'' income households.

Livestock disease

When asked livestock diseases, the male village leaders noted that their sheep and goats were affected by Enterotoxaemia and PPR (Sheep Pox) diseases. There are a total of 1,000 sheep and goats owned by the people of Turkman Qodoq, with 200 reported affected by Enterotoxaemia, a highly contagious disease. This represents a high disease incidence that merits an external support. The other main diseases are diarrhoea (esal), wool loss (sarkhakan, probably mange, Sarcoptes scabii) and skin sores (zardonna or yellow water).



Livestock Prices

Turkman Qodoq households and surrounding villages rely on Sheberghan city market for selling and purchasing of livestock. However, both Jurqoduq and Chaqma choqor bazaars were both active markets for the nearby communities.

As shown in the graph on the left, prices of sheep and cows remained steady. However, oxen prices increased between February and November 2003, decreasing thereafter. Goat prices were relatively steady around $150 with some seasonal fluctuations.

After draft oxen, the second animal of importance was donkeys. The Donkey usually cost $220, though prices can change seasonally.

Grazing land and Access to Water

According to the village leaders, access to grazing land in Turkman Qodoq has not changed in the four months prior to the survey, but productivity of the grassland has decreased, compared to last year due to lack of rain.

Water remains the area's biggest concern, in terms of safe drinking water and water to rebuild livestock numbers. Some communities have to travel long distances to collect spring water, however much water is wasted and contaminated by activities further up-stream. In areas where there are no springs - water harvesting and management infrastructure for rain and river water is currently inadequate.

The animals are fed on hay (dried grass) over winter with some additional cereals and by-products (e.g. sesame cake remaining after processing for oil). It takes 2 camel loads of hay to sustain 1 animal for the 3 month winter period. Migration routes have been passed down from father to son for centuries. They instinctively know where to go, and when to go there. Every part of Dasht-i-Laily has a name.

Many Kuchi own large dogs which protect their livestock, and in some cases even lead the herds and flocks in the absence of a human shepherd.

EMBROIDERY, CARPETS, GILIMS, WOOL and SILK SPINNING:

Carpet making is a source of income for 40% of households where, Carpet weaving for business is an income for 15% of households. In comparison with women's data, Carpet making for wage is an income for 30%, while carpet weaving for a business is an income for 17.5% of households. Carpet weaving is engaged for both income generation and household consumption. Forty percent 'of 'wealthy" households make carpets for a wage, 39% of "middle" income and 40% of the "poor" did. Carpet weaving for wages did not usually occur in a separate weaving unit; instead, participants were given material by an investor who paid a set rate dependent on the difficulty of the pattern and the length of carpet completed.

	Number of households	Percentage of Households	Average Income Earned in last 4 months (Afs.)
Wool String	18	45	506
Silk String	0	0	0
Handicrafts	4	10	875
Carpets/Gilims	7	17.5	1075

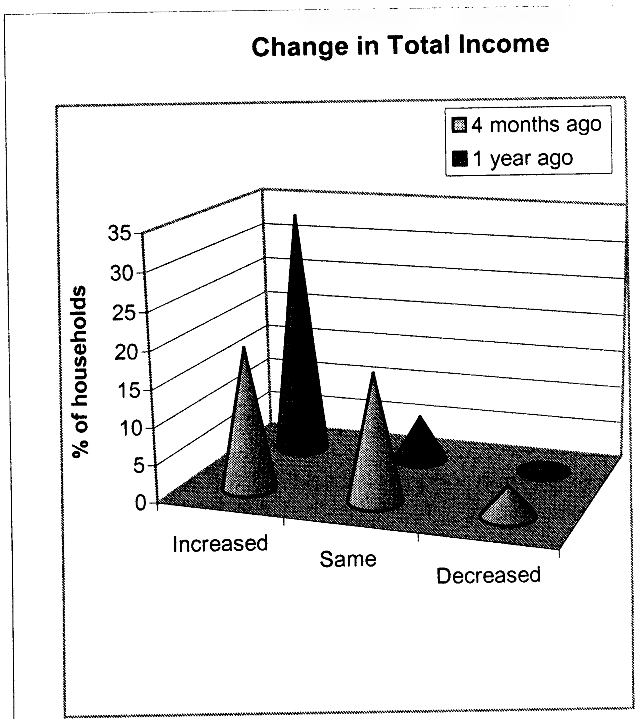
In Turkman Qodoq, 10% of the households made handicrafts to be sold for cash. No system exists to exchange these activities for wages and no " wealthy" households participated. All wealth grouping were involved in weaving carpets. No wealth groupings were engaged silk string. All wealth groupings were involved in wool spinning. There were no income changes in either handicraft businesses or craft-making wages over the last four months. Furthermore, no changes in market prices or wool/silk availability were noted and input costs remained the same. However, both men and women observed that households engaged in these activities spent more time weaving.

COLLECTION AND SALE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
In Turkman Qodoq, 38 households were involved in the collection and sale of natural resources. Most (18) households were from "poor" followed by "middle" income households (11) and 18 "poor" income households. All these households collected and sold bushes and animal manure. Both livelihoods activities were negatively impacted by a recent drought. Lack of rain meant bushes could not grow as well and fewer animals (reduced dung available for collection). The village did not feel the future of these resources would be compromised since the animal stocks would be replenish and bushed were cut above the root areas so they will grow back after the rains.

Non-Agricultural Labour (skilled and unskilled manual labour)
All together, 45% of households claimed manual labour as an income source. Most (11) households were from "poor" households, followed by "middle" income households (5) and two "wealthy" households.

OTHER INCOME SOURCES
The only other income source in Turkman Qodoq ware Gifts, Begging and informal wage labour. Gifts were a major source of income for 27.5 percent of the households. Most (9) households were from "poor" followed by "middle" income households (2). Informal wage labour income were two households from the "poor" households and one "wealth" household. Begging were income source for 5% of the "poor" households.

CAPACITY TO COPE: COPING STRATEGIES
The graph on the right shows that income decreased in 4% of households in four month prior to the survey. In the previous year, only 1% of household incomes decreased. Income increases followed the same trend: only 19% of households reported an increase in the last four months compared to 33% in the previous year. This suggests livelihoods are insecure. Households with decreased incomes did not share similar livelihoods, thus it does not appear that



a specific shock is responsible. Instead, this might be normal variation.

The coping strategies included here are by no means inclusive of all strategies invoked by households to survive tough times; instead, it focuses on behaviours predictive of declining livelihood and food security in Afghanistan that can be easily measured.

The list was divided into erosive and non-erosive coping strategies in order to understand impact on a household's future livelihood security. The division is not mutually exclusive as the loss of a bicycle, motorcyle or car may impact future livelihood opportunities. Similarly, the order of the list does not reflect a continuum of behaviour. The coping strategies listed are meant to be general indicators of a worsening situation, However, Households experiencing chronic and transitory poverty who engage in these activities on a regular basis.

Non-Erosive Coping Strategies (last four months) (n=40)	**Percentage**
Household member migrated for labour	2.5(1)
Begging	5.0(2)
Sons sent to work as indentured labour	10(4)
Household members worked more hours to make daily expenses	50.0(20)
Households who borrowed food from relatives to make a meal	92.5(37)
Sold Carpet / Gilims from the house	12.5(5)
Consumption of dried bread	5.0(2)

Non-erosive coping strategies

In order to meet expenses, 12.5% of households sold non-productive assets such as carpets/ gilims. Reasons behind sales varied and may be linked to the arrival of the winter season. Commonly households sell some of their assets to help prepare for winter. Up to 50% of households engaged in longer hours of work. Food consumption patterns and sources of food are also key indicators of household vulnerability.

5% of families interviewed had been eating dried bread, which clearly highlights food insecurity. In addition to changes in food consumption, some families needed external support to food needs. 92.5% of families had to borrow food from relatives in order to make a meal in the last four months. In the same way, up to 75% of households took food on credit from local shop or bakery.

Erosive Coping Strategies (n=40)	**Percentage**
Household took out loan	20(8)
Households who took food on credit from local shop	75(30)
Sons sent to work as indentured labour	10(4)

Erosive and distress coping strategies

It is apparent that strategies adapted by households to deal with shocks varied with individuals, households and villages. In Turkman Qodoq, 20% of households took loans as a coping strategy to meet daily expenses. 12.5% of these were "poor", while 7.5% households, were from "middle" wealth income categories.

Seventy-five percent of households took food on credit from local shops and ten percent of households sent sons to work as indentured labour to meet daily expenses. It is apparent that both "poor" and "middle" households are extremely vulnerable as they jeopardize future production capacity to cover immediate needs.

Income Diversity and Capacity to Cope – Risk to Livelihoods

Capacity to cope is defined as the capacity of households to absorb shocks and to adapt to stresses induced by climate, price instability, unemployment and complex emergencies such as political crisis. However, households with various income sources are better able to cope than households who rely on only one or two income sources. The income diversity score is simply a count of the number of income sources for each household. In Turkman Qodoq, households have an average income diversity score of 4.2. In many cases the wealthier household often scores higher income diversity measures, but, in this situation all wealth groupings have a similar score. The main sources of income in Turkman Qodoq were livestock production, collection and sell of natural resources, agricultural day labour and non-agricultural day labour.

	Average Income Diversity Score
Better Off	4.4
Medium	3.9
Poor	4.3
All households	4.2

CONCLUSION - LIVELIHOOD SECURITY SUPPORT

The Kuchi's livelihoods are based on the rearing of livestock. From their herds stem four main enterprises of importance: sale of *karakul* skins (the highly valued skins of neonatal lambs), sale of animals for meat, sale of wool, and making and selling *gillams* (woven rugs) and *namats* (felt rugs).

The past drought years, caused the Kuchi to sell, consume or slaughter all but a few of their animals. Raids from local commanders also took their toll. Turkman Qodoq village once had 40,000 sheep and goats between

400 families, now they have a little less than 1,000. Where once every family owned a flock or herd, now only 80% have one and numbers of animals in a flock or herd range from 6-15, where previously they owned around 1,000. Those families still owning livestock are mainly those with larger flocks to start with who were able to keep the others alive by purchasing feed with the proceeds of the sale of the rest.

In recent years, some of the Kuchi households began to cultivate crops such as barley, wheat, sesame and flax for animal feed. Growing crops on their land is in breach of government regulations which demarcates their land as grazing land. However, farmers from other areas were taking their land; the Kuchi were therefore growing crops partly as a way of safeguarding their land. More recently, those which had acquired arable land had it taken from them by local commanders and their affiliates who now grow crops. An estimated 60% of all the land has been taken over in this way, and farming it is causing serious degradation which will take decades to recover. Attempts to reclaim land through official channels lead to even more crackdowns by these commanders in retaliation. Now few if any have access to arable land, and they even refused the offer of seed from GOAL saying that it would be useless unless they could eat it.

The Kuchi population have self-identified water and access to education as their greatest need. Water remains the area's biggest concern, in terms of safe drinking water and water to rebuild livestock numbers. Some communities have to travel long distances to collect spring water, however much water is wasted and contaminated by activities further up-stream. In areas where there are no springs - water harvesting and management infrastructure for rain and river water is currently inadequate. Wells are suitable in this district, as, for the most part, *sweet* water is readily available.

The greatest immediate need to sustain these populations and improve continuing untenable living conditions is to provide improved water capture and improved management to ensure equitable access to meet such basic human needs and to promote hygiene awareness at the village level. Maintenance and operations training programme is also required to ensure sustainability of these infrastructure inputs by the establishment of a functioning water management committee in each village.

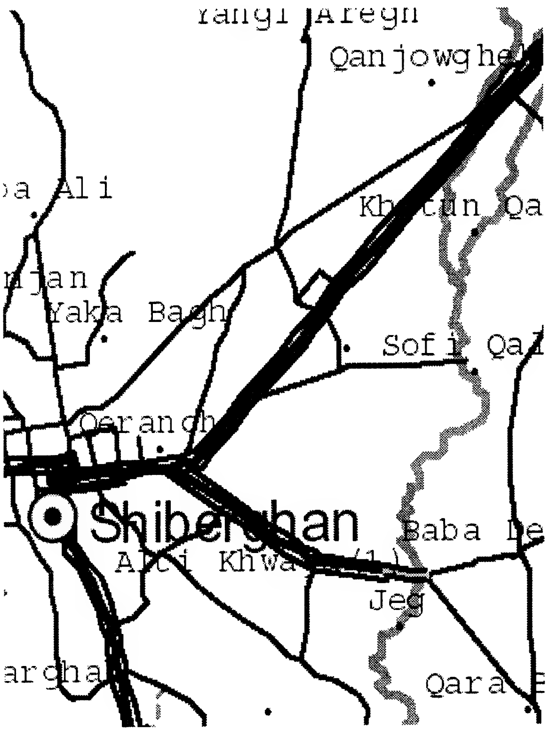
In Turkman Qoduq, livestock need to be replenished, through longer-term breeding programs, credit initiatives, loans or other schemes that will allow the households access to funds to purchase new animals. The village also needs programs that raising the productivity of individual animals and of herds and flocks though better feeding, improved animal husbandry techniques and by selection and use of superior breeding animals.

[3] Information on the methodology can be found in the NSS methodology document on http://www.af/nrva/index_nss.html

[4] In some areas of implementation, the agro-ecological zones used by the 2002 WFP implemented *Country-wide Food Needs Assessment* were used to define livelihood zones.

JawzJan Surveillance Unit	**National Surveillance System (NSS)** **Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan** Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development, Ministry of Agriculture & Animal Husbandry & Ministry of Health	ShaberghanDistrict QanJogha Sentinel Site Fall 2003

SUMMARY FINDINGS FOR QANJOGHA SENTINEL SITE IN EASTHERN SHABERGHAN DISTRICTS (These findings are based on field survey of 40 households and male and female focus group interview. These findings should not be assumed to representative of other parts of Afghanistan)



Food Security

- None of the households thought the food security would worsen over the next four months, though many expressed uncertainty about how they could predict changes in food security in their home. Nonetheless, 70 % of households were worrying how they would purchase or grow food.
- Of these households 35% felt their food situation was worse compared to one year ago.
- Household protein choices differ according to wealth. Dietary Diversity is a concern of "poor and "middle" income households in the village. However, these concerns are based on the frequency of consumption reported by households.

Risk to Lives

- The crude mortality rate is above both the emergency threshold rate and the normal developing country level. Furthermore, for children under 5 years of age, the mortality rate (3.35 deaths/1000 people per day) does not compare favorably with the stable developing country rate and is higher than the emergency threshold rate. This survey demonstrated that the children of QanJogha were in condition of poor health that is both preventable and treatable.
- The data shows that 74% of children under-five years of age were vaccinated. However, Measles vaccination coverage is poor and is probably not interrupting measles virus transmission.
- Morbidity patterns of children under five years of age were high (ARI: 35%, watery diarrhoea 33% and bloody diarrhoea 4%)

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Livelihood Security

- In QanJogha, household livelihood is not secure and is declining. 35% of the households reported an income decrease. Most households (92.5%) were forced to borrow food from relatives to make a meal in the last four months. Many households (57.5%) required credit from local shops in order to obtain sufficient food.
- It is also noted that there was no one alternative coping strategy for a particular problems, but a series of options. These options were not homogenous either across wealth groups.

What is the NSS?
The National Surveillance System monitors trends in key indicators in order to predict early signs of change and deterioration in livelihoods, food security and nutrition. In conjunction with other complementary data collection systems, the NSS provides relevant data for prioritizing limited resources and designing programs.

Methodology
The NSS is based on a sentinel site system, in which provincial level ministries follow a rotating cohort of households overtime. Sites are selected so that they mirror the majority of the communities with respect to agro-ecological features, economic activities, available services and people in a given area (livelihood / agro-ecological zone). Because of the diversity of livelihoods in Afghanistan, even in rural areas, information from the sentinel may not be representative of every village in the zone. However, it is likely, that the data from one sentinel site can signal concern for other villages in the same zone (See Annex I for detailed information on methodology).

OBJECTIVES OF REPORT

- Provide current information on household food security status in Sheberghan District
- Provide information on risk to lives and nutritional risk of individuals in Sheberghan District
- Provide information on the current household livelihood security situation in Sheberghan District, specifically looking at current shocks to livelihoods and the ability of households to adapt to (cope with) these shocks
- Develop a better understanding of the vulnerability and risk of communities and households in Sheberghan in relation to issues of food security, mortality, health and nutrition.

Additionally, this report provides baseline information on indicators that are unique to a local area and have not yet been explored in the depth needed for use in guiding programmes and policies. They are:

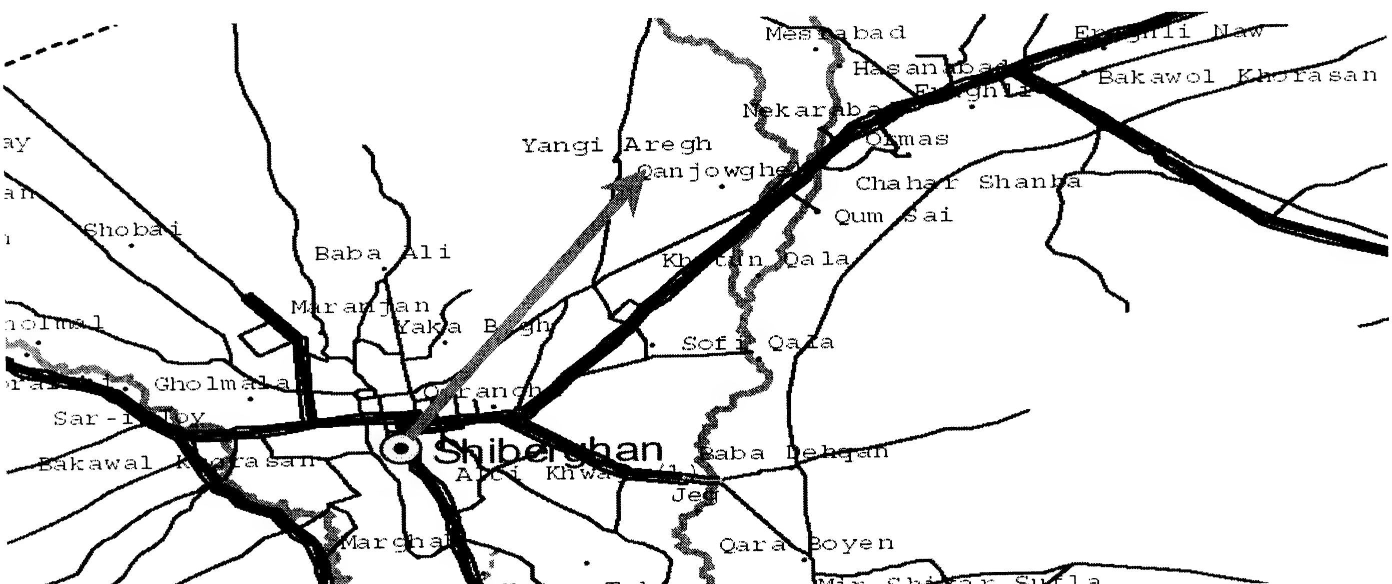
- Characteristics of household wealth in Sheberghan District
- Livelihood Strategies employed in Sheberghan District
- Presence of morbidity, mortality and malnutrition in rural communities in Sheberghan District

And finally, the report aims to provide information on how government and other agencies can use this increased understanding of livelihoods, vulnerability and risk in order to design and prioritise effective policies and programme interventions.

LIVELIHOOD ZONES FOR SHEBERGHAN DISTRICT

Livelihood zones in Sheberghan District can be divided into three distinct agro-ecological areas. These distinctions impact household livelihood patterns, and one study of one sentinel site was selected from each area. Most of the province consists of mountainous, rainfed farmland and irrigated valleys. However, this report will focus only on irrigated land of the districts. A sentinel site was chosen and this report includes information on the sentinel site from Zone one (See map).

Zone one: includes 18 villages east of Sheberghan city. These communities share similar livelihoods and are located in canal-irrigated valleys. Access to water generally includes spring water from Saripul hills that is used for both irrigation and household consumption. Wheat and barley are the main crops.



Jawzjan Province
In the northern region of Afghanistan, Jawzjan province is home to 454,783 people who live within 11,798 km^2. The province is divided into nine districts and a provincial center, Sherberghan city. One of the most ethnically diverse areas of the province, populations from each of Afghanistan's ethnic groups live in Jawzjan, though the Uzbek group dominates Sheberghan, Mardyan, Khwaja Du Koh and Darzab districts. However, Turkmen communities mainly populate Mingajik and Qarqin districts, which share the Turkmenistan border. A variety of ethnicities live in Faizabad, Aqcha and Khamyab though Uzbek and Turkmen groups are more common, though Pushton, Tajik, Hazara and Arab villages also exist.

Administrative System and Political Affiliations
There are two main administrative structures that operate in the area: the Transitional Government of Afghanistan and the Jumbesh military political warlords. The Jamaat military political warlords do exert some

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influence in Aqcha and Faizabad districts. The security of these areas vary according to the warlord presence of these two factions. In general, the safety of communities and their livelihoods are not assured. Within the Transitional Government of Afghanistan, the governors of each district report to the provincial offices in Sheberghan city.

Sheberghan District
Located in the center of Jawzjan province, Sheberghan is the largest district in both land area (2,700 km^2) and population (146,300). Specific vulnerabilities have evolved due to decades of conflict and political instability. Communities here are characterized by weakened or non-existent institutions, high susceptibility to violence, forced displacement of people, denial of basic human rights to some groups within the community and high livelihood vulnerability. Drought has compounded the challenges faced by communities and Sheberghan residents have recently lost livelihood resources (stocks and assets) and basic livelihood strategies (agriculture, wage labour, trade and outcome living) have been drastically undermined.

Food security remains uncertain in most rural communities, as does livelihood security and personal security of individuals. Study of these trends will allow insight into the natural resilience of community livelihoods.

GENERAL QanJogha INFORMATION

	Average Household Size
Wealth	**10**
Middle	**7.1**
Poor	**7.7**
All Households	**7.6**

QanJogha, the sentential site chosen to represent the eighteen villages of the surrounding eastern site of Shebergan city and is located at an altitude of 306 meters. QanJagha is UZBEK word and means many streams of water originating from one Canal. The Canal originated in Saripul hills and runs between January and June. The majority of this settlement and surrounding areas is Uzbek and the dominant (99%) language is Uzbek.

This village has 400 households in the settlement. The 400 households have 4 mosques and a number of households together own one mosque. Of these 400 households, 51% are male and 49% women. Household sizes in QanJoqha differ with wealth, with an average household of 7.6 members per household. The community defined a household as a group of individuals who live in the same house and share consumption and expenditure. Household size in QanJoqha for both "poor" and middle" are seven members per family, whereas, "wealthy" family household size is ten family members.

The Qaruadar (village leader) Mullah Rozi Qol of Jami Mosque (the biggest mosque of the village which has 126 household), has been chosen by the people of this village as a village leader. The leader of the village with the *shura*(elders) group make all the decisions and make facilities for the community. Usually, all disputes within the village are settled by a group of village elders. They have administrative links to the Sheberghan District, which is two hours away by donkey or foot. The district governor is responsible for his district to the provincial centre, at this point, Sheberghan. The annual land tax fee varies between villages, in QanJoqha and the surrounding area farmers pay 50afs/ jeribs per year.

In QanJogha village has one inter-medium school (9^{th} grade) for both girls and boys of the village that is within a relatively short distance and the student are able to walk there. School has four classes and each class has between 50 and 60 students both for girls' class and the boys' class. The total number of students is 441 students. The teachers of both girls and boys in this school were males and most of them were from the village.

Information for this report was collected for the first time and there are no previous data available to compare. The data was collected November 2003 work with male and female focus group interview and 40 household.

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The community categorized households into three different wealth groups, or socio-economic categories. The table on the right describes the type of features characterizing each wealth group and the percentage of households falling in each category. These socio-economic groups will be used throughout the report to understand how food security, livelihood security and risk to lives may be different for households of different socio-economic status. There is a large difference in the household size between the wealthy and the other two groups that the enumerators attribute to a few different reasons. It is seen that the wealth men have more than one wife at a time and so bear children from both wives and that the sons of wealthy families do not separate from the family after marriage. In addition, members of poorer families may migrate to find work and so contribute to a smaller family.

"Wealthy" Households: 2.5 percent (1 households)

A rich person is some one who have access to land, husbandry and have personal carpet weaving in their houses or property.

--women--

A household who have more than 20 Jerbes (one jirib=±0.2 ha) of lands and having more than 10 sheep, goat, camel and cow.

--men--

"Middle" Households: 17.5 percent (7 households)

A self employed household, who do not seek help from others.

--women--

A households who have more than 10 to 20 Jeribs of land and have 5 to 10 animals

--men--

"Poor" Households: 80 percent (32 households)

A poor Household is some one who work for the others and do not have an access to land and have no livestock

--women--

Daily labour who works for others as a source of income is a poor household.

--men--

QanJogha and the surrounding villages, have an active community mobilization process that organizes community work projects. It is mainly from the Shura (elders) group responsibility. The community collectively maintains the water canals pathway, roads and advocate the community needs from Government level and the international NGO's for help.

Further more, social networks are essential for livelihood strategies. Women play a major role in reproductive and household's affairs. Children often help women with accomplishing some of their responsibilities. Men have more authority than women. Some men are engaged in waged employment. It is the men who have control over the large agricultural activities and who are involved in local community politics at ethnic or tribal authority level.

Gender was found to be critical in the household structure and processes that relate to rural livelihood security. The data shows unequal gender relations at household level. To a large extent, household headship determines the access of the household to assets and resources, division of labour, decision-making, power and livelihood strategies.

Female-headed households tend to diversify their activities to earn income in cash and in kind. Gender was identified as an important factor in using indigenous knowledge in enhancing livelihood security. Both men and women were found to possess indigenous knowledge. Women's indigenous knowledge is essential for ensuring household food security, maternal health and child care and income generation through weaving fiber clothes, production of carpets, and handicraft. Their knowledge is not limited in food production and post harvest processes. Men utilize their indigenous knowledge in agricultural production, carving and traditional medicines.

Additionally, households keeps the Islamic practice of "zadaqa" with mostly "wealthy" household giving ten percent of their assets to the "poor" households (islamic low). In the report data shows some of the families were received gift form of zadaqa for sources of income. QanJogha community have good relationship with Sheberghan governor and they support Jumbush political military party as they mostly ethnically Uzbek ethnic and speak Uzbeki language.

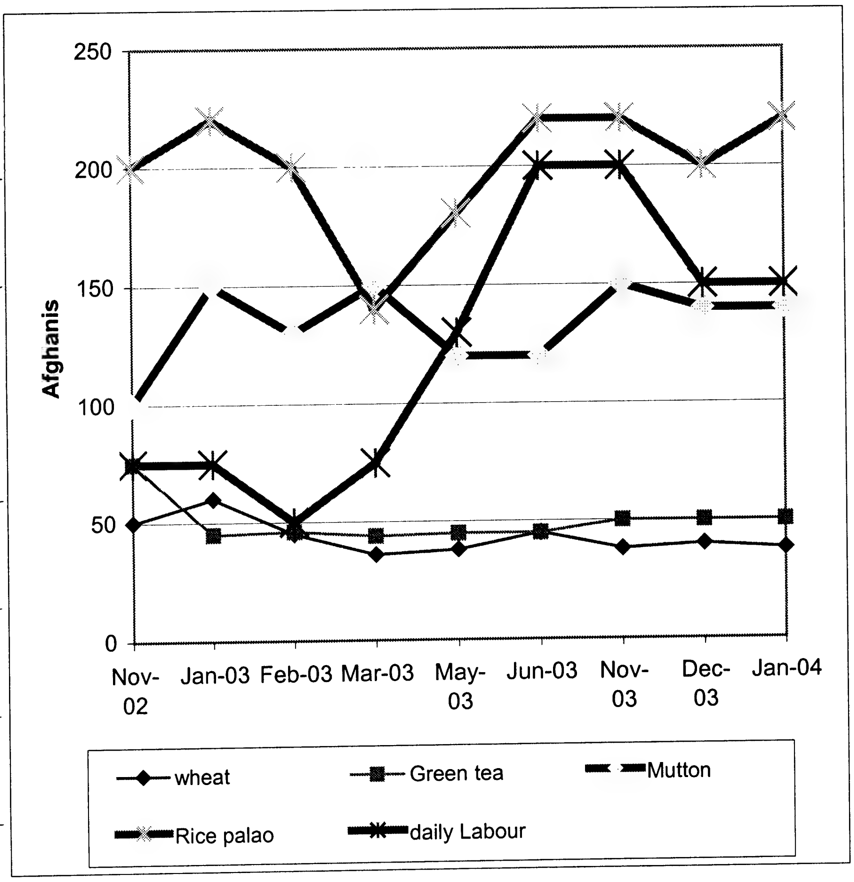
MARKET ACCESS

Location of Market	Time taken to reach market: Vehicle	Time taken to reach market: Foot	Cost of getting to market	Market Accessible in winter
Qoshtipa	3 to 6 hours	More than a day	200	Yes
Chaqmacho qor		2 to 3 hours	--	Yes
Sheberghan	6 to 7 hours	--	400	Yes

Qoshtipa and chaqmachqor bazaars are the closest food market to Turkman Qodoq village and the surrounding villages. The roads to both bazaars are accessible all year around. Chaqma choqo bazaar usually takes three to six hours by donkey or foot and is only open Fridays. Qoshtipa bazaar is only open on Saturdays; it takes a day travel by foot or donkey to get there. The third market that people use if they can afford the transportation cost is the Sheberghan city market. Most of the Turkman Qodoq people can not afford to travel to this market for their daily grocery. This is because of the distance to the market, people are forced to stay overnight in Sheberghan city and if they do not have a relative in the city, which is the case most of time there is an accommodation charge on top of the 400 Af's travel cost by vehicle. However, according to this survey, some travel once or twice a month to the Sheberghan city market and they always go on bazaar days (Monday and Thursdays).

The road to Sheberghan is relatively good. The Turkman Qodoq residence can get all the basic food items from the Chaqma choqo and Jurqodoq bazaars. However, for a lot of none food items and medicine drugs are always needed to travel to Sheberghan city.

Most households send one household member to the market on a market day (Friday, Saturday or Mondays and Thursdays) during, summer, spring and autumn. All the above three markets are accessible all year round. The people in Turkman Qodoq go to the market to trade Qaraqol skin, goat, sheep and natural resource. People of this village are very "poor" and if they do not sell any of the above that week they can not afford of buying the basic items.



MARKET PRICES

Turkman Qodoq household rely on the Sheberghan city market for purchase of none food items. All village households purchase wheat, as they do not grow any crop production. Wheat price have been stable over the past year and impact daily labour rates since many workers are paid wheat for work. When prices decrease, whilst labour rates increase, it becomes more profitable to work for wheat compared to growing the crop.

As shown on the graph to the left, wheat and green tea prices have been stable this year. However, daily labour rates increased from March 2003 reaching a peak of 200 Af's per day in June. Rates then began decreasing in November. The same trends held for both rice and mutton. Rice reached a peak of 220 Af's per Kg from January, June and November 2003 and January 2004. Mutton prices reached a maximum price of 150 Af's in January, March and November 2003.

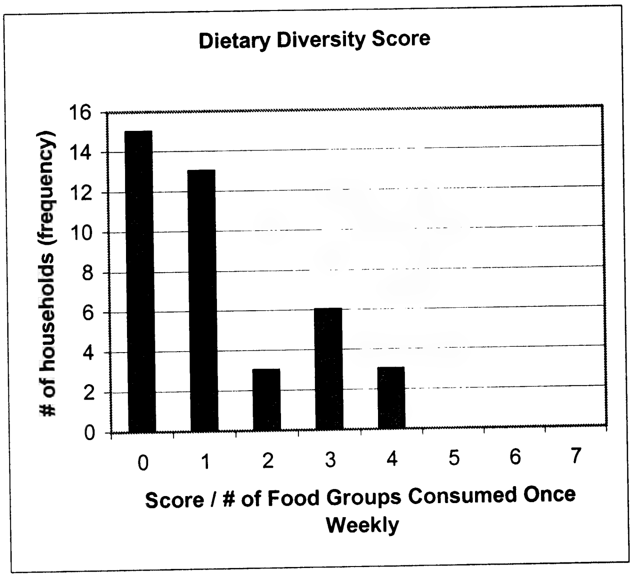
Mutton and rice increases directly impact village food security since these are staple food items. Households also purchase vegetable items (potatoes,

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spring onions, okra and carrots) from Sheberghan market: prices have remained steady. There are seasonal shortages of some vegetables, though this does not seem to impact vegetable prices nor is demand increased during off-season. Households simply purchase what is available at that time in the market.

DIETARY DIVERSITY - DIET QUALITY

Dietary diversity is a major component of food security. Previous studies show that Afghani dietary habits are not normally diverse and consequently, there is an increased risk of micronutrient deficiency disorders and related diseases. It is not entirely clear how dietary preferences and food availability interact to determine household diet patterns. To better understand diet quality over the past four months, surveyors asked householders how frequently they ate foods from different food groups. These results were summarized in a dietary diversity score to capture dietary quality and household diet patterns. Household dietary diversity scores are summarized in the graph on the right.



Diversity scores improved with increased wealth with a relative scores of 1.80, 1.57 and 0.86 for "wealthy", "middle" and "poor" households respectively. These results suggest that both "wealthy" and "middle" households either have the means to buy more expensive foods or, have acquired a preference for a more diverse diet. No households had scores of five, six and seven; it suggests that few varieties of food groups are available from the Qoshtipa and Chaqmachoqor bazaars.

The table below reflects the average frequency of consumption for food groups during the last four months (excluding Ramadan and festivals times) by wealth group and for all households. The data shows that all households are eating protein rich foods (meat, milk, eggs, and pulses) at least once a month to once a week to complement cereals (wheat and barley). However this data does not allow inferences regarding protein sufficiency.

Household protein choices differ according to wealth. "Wealthy" and "middle" households eat meat weekly, whereas "poor" households only eat meat once a month or less. "wealthy" and "poor" households drink milk two to three times a month compared to once a week in "middle" households. All wealth category households eat eggs only once a month. "Wealthy" and "middle" households eat pulses once a week compared to two to three times a month in "poor" households.

In the last four months, no households of all wealth categories ate green leaf vegetable. However, other vegetables like radish, pumpkin, tomato, onions and potatoes were eaten once a month or less by all wealth categories households. Adequacy of protein intake cannot be inferred from this data, although a decrease in the frequency of protein food choices per month in households might indicate a decline in food security and increased poverty.

As data regarding quantities and consumption practices were not collected, no inferences can be made regarding the adequacy of vitamin and mineral intakes. Nonetheless, this data suggests some areas needing additional research include:

1. Vitamin A sufficiency (animal sources and beta-carotene from plant sources);
2. Calcium sufficiency (milk and water, most water is hard, sources), and;
3. Vitamin C sufficiency (fresh plant sources).

These concerns are based on the frequency of consumption

Average Frequency of Food Group Consumption by Wealth Group

Wealth Group	Meat	Milk, Yogurt, Krut, etc	Eggs	Pulses	Green Leafy Vegetables	Other Vegetables	Fruits	1 = Never Eat 2 = Once a month or less 3 = 2 to 3 times a month 4 = Once Weekly 5 = Twice Weekly 6 = 3 to 5 times Weekly 7 = Always
Better Off	2.2	2.8	3.0	4.0	1.4	1.6	4.4	
Medium	2.8	2.5	1.7	3.2	1.5	2.2	5.1	
Poor	2.0	2.1	1.5	3.1	1.1	1.4	3.9	
All Households	2.2	2.3	1.7	3.2	1.3	1.7	4.3	

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CROP PRODUCTION

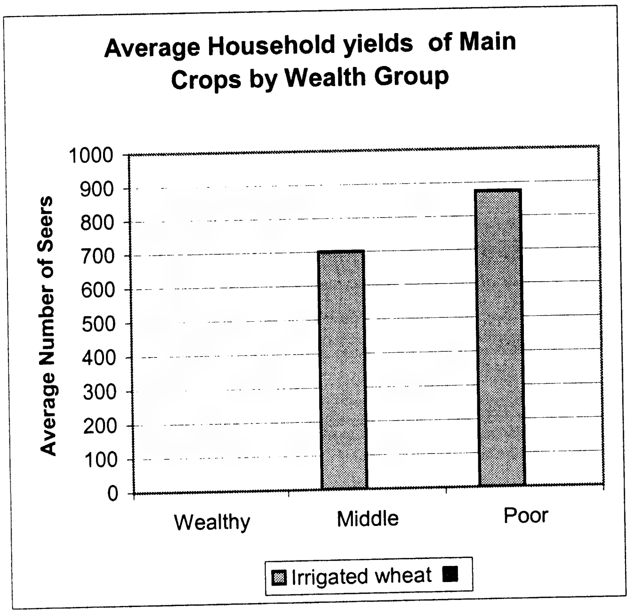
Rural and semi-rural areas in Afghanistan remain highly dependent on subsistence agriculture for households' consumption, monitoring annual crop yields versus amount planted can help predict the food security of households. Irrigated Wheat and Barley are the staple crops growing in these areas. In Afghanistan, Irrigated land produce 93% of total production, whilst rainfed produce the remaining 7% (FAO report). In QanJogha, agricultural production is the second most important source of income with 50% of households engaging crop production.

2003 Harvest

The average amount of wheat harvested by poor household in QanJogha for the 2003 harvest season was 65 seers kg . According to FAO report in 1999, Afghanis consume per capita more wheat than average, about 61 grams per day or 220kg per year. The annual wheat production required for Sheberghan districts population of 146,300 people estimated to be 33 metric tonnes per year. This is not including the amount of seeds households will retain for planting next growing season.

Location	Irrigated Wheat per hector harvested (Kg)		Irrigated Barley per hector harvested (Kg)	
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2001-2002	2002-2003
Sheberghan District	1400	1051	1190	1445

Traditionally, Afghan farmers have produced their own seed by saving and selecting part of their harvest for the next growing season. This practice is still dominant in most of the country. Seed varieties and shortage of fertilizer are frequently quoted as reasons for declining yields. Furthermore, farmers in this area believe that most indigenous varieties are low yielding and susceptible disease. However, there is no research supporting this and the farmers do not know, if the imported seed varieties will have same yield with a time either.



As some households are sharecroppers or rent their land, the amount of yield kept by households can differ from the actual harvested. In QanJogha, only 16 households (27.5%) own their land (an average land holding was 33.7 Jerbis). Four households are rented land.

The graph on the left, presents the average amount of yield retained by the household. It is disaggregated by wealth to understand relative differences in food availability by socio-economic groups. However, the data shows that wealthy households are not engaged in crop production. The average amount of wheat kept by the five "middle" households is 700 seers (1 seer=7kg), with 14 "poor" income households averaging 875 seers. However, this graph does not necessarily represent the food security.

FOOD SECURITY PERCEPTION

Household perception of food security is strongly related to actual food security. Fourteen households (35% of total) felt their situation was worse compared to one year ago (30% of these were "poor" and 5% were of the "middle" wealth group), while 5% felt their situation had worsened over the last four months. 7.5% felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food in the past four months. Of these three households, two were "poor".

None of the interviewed households thought the food security would worsen over the next four months, though many expressed uncertainty about how they could predict changes in food security in their home. Nonetheless, 70% did worry about how they would purchase/cultivate food. Of these households, 60% were "poor", 10% from the "middle" grouping, and 30% "wealthy". Enumerators observed that one of the "poor" households did not appear to have enough food to survive the winter.

PERCEPTION OF FOOD SECURITY INDICATORS	**Percentage** out of 40 households
Consider food situation to be **worse** in comparison to 4 months ago	5%
Consider food situation to be **worse** in comparison to one year ago	35%
Consider food situation **not** to be **sufficient** in the last four months	7.5%
Worried where their food was coming from at the time of the survey	70%
Think the food situation will be **worse** in the next 4 months	0%
Enumerators thought households did **not** have **enough** food for the	2.5%

CONCLUSION: FOOD SECURITY

QanJogha and surrounding villages are not in a position to be food secure through its own production at the present. Food security in the rural community has been considered to be largely a function of stable crop production. In QanJogha, 50 % of households are engaged crop production while the other 50% of households are engaged difficulty occupations in order to secure a meal.

Food security is defined as the condition whereby everyone has at all times access to and control over sufficient quantities of good quality food for an active and healthy life (World Bank 1986). It is composed of access to food and availability of food. In QanJogha, there was no access to food for all households and there was not enough food for the "poor" and "middle" wealth group households. For all household categories, each group has adapted their own coping strategies to deal with their food situation, but the common practice was reducing their household consumption by skipping meals, eating dry bread or poverty food.

Despite years of conflict, prices of staple food crops and currency exchange rates under the Taliban were relatively stable. The new administration was accompanied by an enormous appreciation of the afghani currency by approximately 60%. The main markets are sensitive to these economic trends. Prices of staple food crops (rice and mutton) are continuously increasing because of exchange rate fluctuation. However, the price of wheat is continuously decreasing (1 Kg of wheat is $1 where the FAO price value of 1kg wheat seed is $18 in Afghanistan). The price increase has an impact for the community dietary diversity and is a common concern for the future nutrition of the elderly, women and children of this village.

The following supports are immediately needed in this sentinel site and the surrounding villages.

1. Water intervention is needed firstly for community consumption, health and hygiene needs.
2. Cash for work will help the food security of this community.
3. Emergency Food aid is needed for the "poor" and "middle" households of QanJogha village, however food insecurity does not always equate with food aid needs. Food security can be achieved, if the farmers' inputs are available in the bazaar.

The priority support to improve the food security of this sentinel site is rapid revival of the crop production by ensuring the following:

1. The availability and distribution of inputs (improved seed, fertilizer, tools). Furthermore, a priority needs to be placed in developing quality improved staple food seed varieties that is suitable to the local environment conditions.
2. Shortages of water have impacted negatively on health, hygiene and food security. Food security in QanJagha today is primarily a function of the household's ability to retain control over access water.
3. Capacity building though information transfer of technology is a need to train the farming community in this area.

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RISKS TO LIVES - QanJogh

The risk to lives section of this report highlights areas in the country where individuals are more at risk of dying and understanding the reasons behind this increased risk. It particularly focuses on better understanding the links between nutritional risk, food insecurity and mortality.

MORTALITY INDICATORS:

The current crude mortality rate (CMR) of 1.24 in QanJogha is above both the emergency threshold rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 people per day and the normal developing country level of 0.5 deaths/10,000 people per day. This is higher than the normal limit for the Jawjzan province zones and therefore is a significant cause for concern. Furthermore, the QanJogha community does not seem alarmed at the rate of 15 deaths during the four-month reference period, suggesting that the village has often suffered from high mortality rates. Children under-5 years of age mortality rate of 4.93 does not compare favourably with the stable developing rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 people per day and is more than double the emergency threshold rate of 2.0 deaths/10,000 people per day.

Because of the high rate of maternal and child mortality, this study also looked at the number of children who had a skilled birth attendant present at delivery as a proxy for risk to lives of both the mothers giving birth and the new infants. Of the number of children born in the last 4 months, the percentage of births attended by a skilled birth attendant is 40.0%. This seems to be an acceptable percentage in this village. This figure, however, is not likely to include stillbirths or children who died during the last four months as a result of the difficulty of obtaining such information.

RISKS TO LIVES INDICATORS	Percentage (%)
Mortality Indicators	
Crude mortality in last 4 months (Deaths / 10, 000 / day)	1.24
Under 5 mortality in last 4 months (Deaths / 10, 000 / day)	4.93
Births in last 4 months attended by a Skilled Birth Attendant (n=8)	40
Morbidity Indicators	
Children < 5 years with watery diarrhoea (n=45)	13.3
Children < 5 years with bloody diarrhoea (n=45)	4.4
Children < 5 with ARI (n=45)	26.7
Children between 6 and 59 months with measles vaccination (n=42)	73.8
Child Anthropometric Status (WFH % of median and MUAC)	
Children with global acute malnutrition (Oedema/Severe/Moderate)	2.4[1]
Children > 6 months and <59 months with Oedema (n=42)	0
Children > 6 and <59 months with severe acute malnutrition (n=42)	0
Children > 6 and <59 months with moderate acute malnutrition (n=42)	2.4
Children > 1 year and <59 months with a MUAC under 13.5 cm (n=42)	14.7
Children > 1 year and <59 months with a MUAC under 12 cm (n=42)	0
Adult Women Anthropometric Status	
Reproductive age women (15-49 years) with a MUAC < 23.0 cm (n=57)	13.3
Reproductive age women (15-49 years) with a MUAC < 21.0 cm (n=57)	10.5
Micronutrient Deficiencies	
Households with iodised salt (only includes households with salt) (n=40)	-

MORBIDITY INDICATORS:

The morbidity indicators included in the surveillance system are associated with a risk of mortality and are the primary causes of death for children under five in Afghanistan. The incidence of watery diarrhoea among children under 5 years of 13.3% is *cause of concern.* The presence of bloody diarrhoea in 4.4% of the children in the village indicates a more serious concern. Many of the cases of diarrhoeal disease might be attributed to hygiene practices and a shortage of water. The percent of children under five suffering from Acute Respiratory Infections is 27%. Measles vaccination coverage in Afghanistan is 95%, and MOH figures for the Sheberghan district report coverage to be 81% on June 20, 2003. However, the measles vaccination coverage of 74% in this round of data coverage is inconsistent with other figures.

[1] (CI: 2.3 to 2.5): The confidence interval is calculated for a random sample with a small (finite) population.

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CHILDREN NUTRITIONAL STATUS:
2.4% percent of children in the sample have global acute malnutrition, which includes children under 5 with oedema and a weight-for-height measurement below 80 % of the median of a reference population. Children with oedema are at an extremely high risk of dying and in this sample, no children were oedematous. Children below 70% are considered severely malnourished (acute) and also have a high risk of mortality. In QanJogha, no children were severely wasted. However, the percentage of children under 5 with moderate wasting in this sample was 2.4%, which require a response. Low MUAC measurements also indicate children at risk of mortality. The presence of 15% of children with a MUAC lowers than 13.5 cm is a concern. However, no children had a MUAC of less than 12.0 cm.

ADULT WOMEN NUTRITIONAL STATUS:
Low MUACs in reproductive-age women has been associated with high child and maternal mortality making it an important indicator for increased risks to adult women mortality. In QanJogha, 33.3% of women have a MUAC below 23.0 cm and 10.5% of women have a MUAC below 21.0 cm.

MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES:
The presence of iodised salt in the house is a proxy for the use of it and also therefore of iodine deficiency. No households had iodised salt as all salt was locally mined block salt during the survey. However, the iodised salt is available in the local market and there is a factory that produces iodised salt in Ghol mahalah, Shaberghan City.

HEALTH FACILITIES:
The table below lists the health services or facilities that are available to the people in QonJogha area. However, there are no health facilities in QonJogha itself and all the residents of the neighbouring villages travel to Sheberghan City (Provincial Capital City) to use Sheberghan City's health services. Sheberghan City has two main Hospitals and four comprehensive health centres and number of private doctors. People travel there with public transportation, the cost of getting to Sheberghan city from QanJogha is 10 Afs. In an urgent situation, people hire taxi, the cost of which (round trip including a waiting period) is 300 Afs.

In QanJogha itself, there are number of traditional birth attendants (TBA) to help the village women with birth deliveries. The birth attendant usually comes to the woman's house for services. The common custom of TBA in this village and the surrounding areas is that there are no fixed charges for their services and, as such, every household pays what they are able to afford and in accordance to their class in the community. The TBA fee ranges from nothing to 100 afs and can be in cash or kind. Many households in this village pay to their TBA services using food and no-food items.

All the Government health services in Sheberghan City are free of charge, and as a result they are used largely by poor and middle income families. The wealthy class of QanJogha and the surrounding area goes to private doctors which charge 40Afs for a visit. Many people believe that the services of a private doctor are better than those of the government and if one is able to afford 40 Afs he/she should go to the private doctor. Medicine needs to be paid for in both cases. There are also skilled birth attendants in Sheberghan City hospitals and additionally there is a private service that people may use in the case of severe emergencies or complications. This type of private service is very expensive. Travel to Sheberghan is possible in all seasons, including winter, as the village is very close to the city.

Health Facilities Table

	Location of facility	Time taken to reach facility	Cost of getting to the facility (Afs)	Access to facility	Facility Accessible in winter and Spring
Health posts	Sheberghan	20 minutes	20 or 300	Everybody	Yes
Basic Health Centre	Sheberghan	20 minutes	20 or 300	Everybody	Yes
Comprehensive Health Centre	Sheberghan	20 minutes	20 or 300	Everybody	Yes
Hospital	Sheberghan	20 minutes	20 or 300	Everybody	Yes
Traditional healers/Birth Attendants	QonJogha	5 minutes	-	Women Only	Yes
Skilled birth attendant	Sheberghan	20 minutes	20 or 300	Women Only	Yes
Private doctor	Sheberghan	20 minutes	20 or 300	Everybody	Yes

The use of health facilities has stayed the same in the last four months.

WATER SOURCES:

In QanJogha, the public sources of water are man made earth dams and 6 hand pumps built by the Swedish committee for Afghanistan. In addition to that, most households have wells in their houses. Those who do not must retrieve water from the village's earth dam. The earth dams are usually located near the mosques and in most cases it is the men of the family who bring water from the dam to the household. As a result of increased health awareness, the majority of the village people prefer to get their drinking water from hand pumps rather than from either the earth dam or the open wells (which are occasionally used by animals). The people reported that both from the Earth dams and open well the quality and the quantity of water available have stayed the same in comparison with last year. However, the quality and the quantity of the Hand pump decreased in comparison from the last year.

The number one priority for the village is to get more access to clean drinking water through the construction of more hand pumps or deep wells with immersed pumps as the QanJogha village has a reliable source of electricity.

Drinking Water Source Table

(Source listed in order of use)	Time taken for water collection	Quality change since last year	Quantity change since last year
Earth Dams	30 minutes	Same	Same
Hand pump	30 minutes	Decreased	Decreased
Open well	30 minutes	Same	Same

SANITATION FACILITIES:

There are three common types of toilets in the QanJogha area: open area, vault latrine and deep latrine. The majority of households have a deep latrine toilet in their houses. The vault latrine is usually located in public places like schools and mosques and is always separate for men and women. The very low income households of QanJogha who can not build a latrine have an open area toilet and they use the human manure as fertilizer for their crop production.

CONCLUSION: RISKS TO LIVES

The crude mortality rate is above both the emergency threshold rate of deaths per day and the normal developing country level of deaths per day. Furthermore, for children under 5 years of age, the mortality rate does not compare favorably with the stable developing country rate and is higher than the emergency threshold rate of deaths people per day. This survey demonstrated that the children of QanJogha are in condition of poor health that is both preventable and treatable.

In QanJogha, water and sanitation are completely inadequate. Presumably, the rates of both water and blood diarrhoea can be attributed to these two factors. This should be improved as rapidly as possible. In addition, adequate preventative and curative health facilities and services should be available and accessible to the village community.

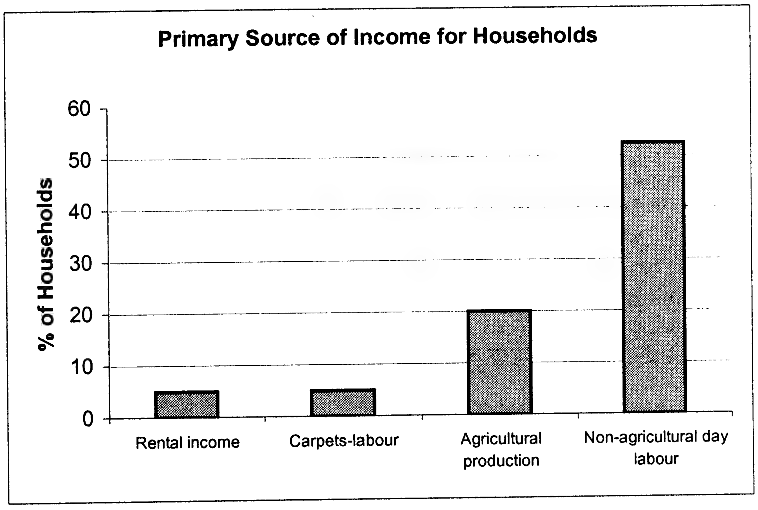
A mass measles vaccination campaign is also needed in this village. Measles vaccination coverage is poor and is probably not interrupting measles virus transmission. Moreover, community training in public health is essential as introducing the community to toilets and other sanitation programmes that will improve the condition of QanJogha's health problem

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The Livelihood Security section is structured so that it first gives a general overview of the livelihood strategies of the community and the households within the community. It then looks at the main livelihood strategies of these households, describing the state of the livelihood assets related to each particular income source. This section also seeks to provide indicators of current shocks to livelihood sources and households' abilities to cope with these shocks. This information is also intended to provide agencies with sufficient information to decide whether there is a need to respond to a current shock. It finishes by looking at the characteristics of households that are at high risk of being impacted by future shocks and offering recommendations on how agencies can develop household livelihood opportunities, mitigate against future shocks and protect against livelihood asset depletion.

INCOME SOURCE PROFILE:

The primary income source in QanJogha during the period of June to September 2003 was non- agricultural day labour, followed by agricultural production and carpet weaving. Since QanJogha is approximately ten kilometres from the provincial capital (Sheberghan), market labour demand and daily rates influence the income of Qan Jogha's "poor" and "middle" households considerably.



Of all QanJogha households, 53% stated non-agriculture day labour as their primary income sources. 56% of "poor" households and 43% of "middle" income households also reported it as an income source. Agriculture production was the second most important livelihood source for "middle" and "poor" households. Wealthier households gained some income from renting household assets. Women from "poor" and "middle" households used carpet weaving to supplement household income.

The table below captures the percentage of households engaged in different activities. This provides an indication of the relative importance of different livelihood strategies to the community. Non-agriculture labour is of primary importance as 77.5% of all households gain income from this activity. "Poor" households particularly depend on this activity (65%), while "middle" income households form the remaining 12.5%.

Carpet labour provided income for 57.5 % of households, while 50% participated in crop production. Other important sources of income practiced on a smaller scale include: agriculture labour, collection of natural resources, taking loan, gifts/gleaning and agricultural livestock.

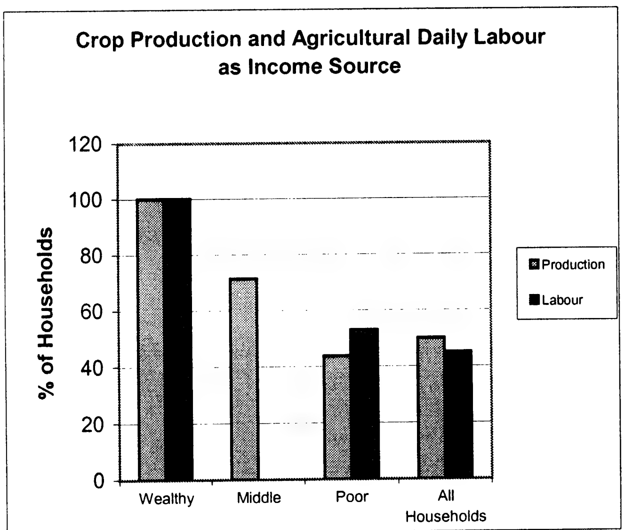
n=40 Households	Percent of households with Income Source	% of Households with Women's Income Source
Spinning/ Carpets Labour	57.5	77.5
Trade / Shops	7.5	--
Spinning/ Carpets Business	2.5	2.5
Agricultural Labour	45.0	--
Agricultural Livestock	17.5	5.0
Take a Loan	25.0	2.5
Microbusiness	2.5	--
Agricultural Crops	50.0	--
Non-agriculture day labour	77.5	--
Collection-natural resources	35.0	5.0
Formal Wage Labour	5.0	--
Informal Wage Labour	7.5	--
Remittances	0.0	2.5
Rental Income	5.0	--
Gifts/Gleaning	15	7.5
Repayment of Loan	--	--
Begging	--	--

Data regarding women's income activities can clarify the role of women in livelihood strategies and identify potential for future involvement. Most women (77.5%) made carpets for a wage, followed by livestock and the collecting and selling of the natural resources.

Carpet labour was the usual female contribution to household income for ''poor" and ''middle" wealth categories. In ''poor" and ''middle" households, carpet weaving accounted for 38% and 29% of income generation activities respectively. No ''wealthy" women participated in this activity.

Of the village women, 2.5% own businesses founded on carpet, embroidery, silk or wool enterprises; and 2.5% used loans to further their investments. Of those with loans, most women probably chose carpet weaving activities to increase household income.

Trade, natural resource collection and raising livestock were popular income sources for ''poor" and ''middle" income households. Interestingly, women tended to see activities associated with men as less important. However, all women received money from gifts/gleaning, yet men of all wealth groups did not consider these a source of income.



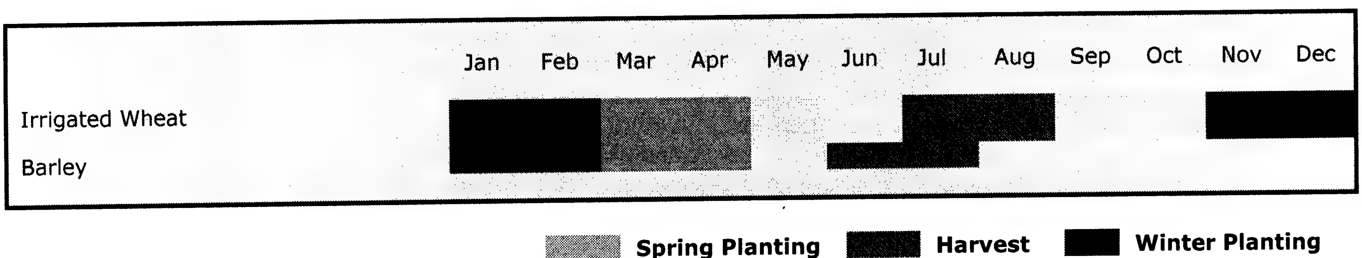
CROP PRODUCTION AND AGRICULTURAL DAILY LABOUR

The two major sources of income that impact the poor of QanJogha are daily labour and crop production. The graph on the left shows household participation in these two activities across the different wealth rankings.

Wheat and barley cultivation on irrigated land are the primary crops of this areas. The 53 "poor" households generate income from agricultural labour, while 44% were engaged in crop production. In contrast, no "middle" income households listed non-agricultural labour as an income source and only five households grew crops. "Wealthy" households grew crops and all were engaged in agricultural labour. In general, "poor" households were oriented toward labour, while the wealthy were able to cultivate crops themselves. The range of daily labour rates vary through the year, ranging between 75 and 200 Af's per day. During harvest seasons, labour may be paid in wheat or barley rather than cash.

Crop Seasonal Calendar

QanJogha crops are primarily irrigated wheat and barley. As the seasonal calendar below describes, irrigated wheat is harvested in June/July, whilst barley is harvested in June. Both crops are planted once a year, during the winter.



Crop Production Assets: Land Ownership and Draft Oxen

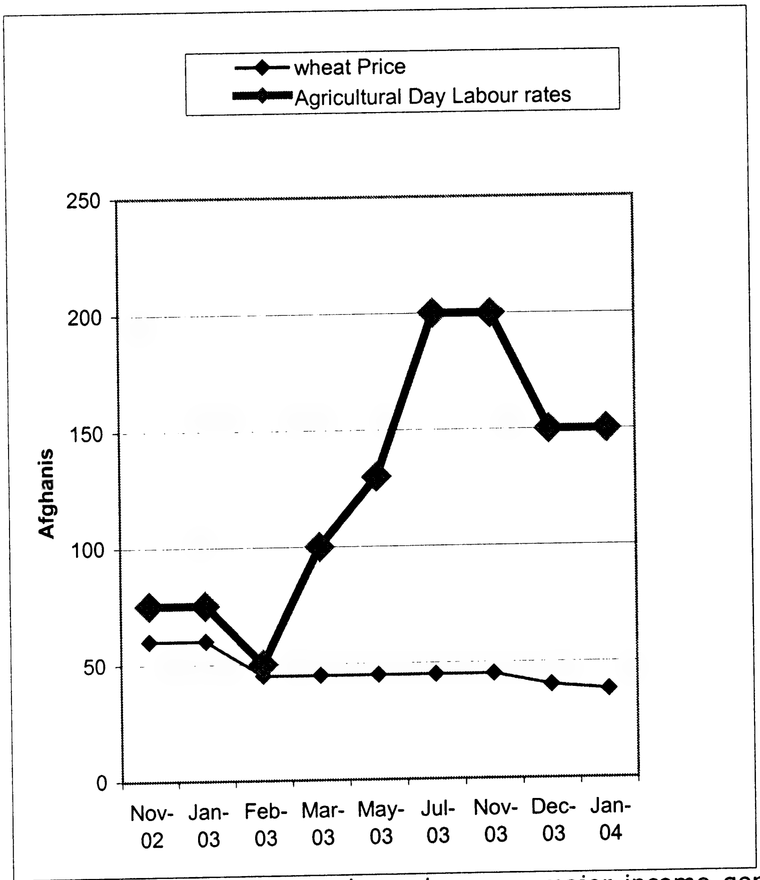
Land ownership is the key prerequisite for agricultural production. In Qan ogha village, 28% of households own land (average holding, 33.7 jeribs) and 15% are sharecroppers who must share their seasonal crop yields.

Wealthy households did not own agricultural land. "Middle" income households (86%) usually owned 33 jeribs of land, compared to 16% of poor households (35 jeribs of land). Most of the 15% sharecroppers were poor (12.5%) and the remaining numbers of households were from the "middle" income group (2.5%). Three of the "poor" households rented land. Though draft oxen are extremely important to household crop production, no households owned oxen.

	All Households	Middle	Poor
Households owning land (%)	27.5	85.7	15.6
Average amount of land owned (jeribs)	33.7	33.50	35.
Households owning irrigated land (%)	27.5	15	12.5
Average amount of irrigated land owned (jeribs)	23.9	33.0	12.40

Shocks to Agricultural Yields

In QanJogha, 2 households (5%) reported 20-50% crop losses. None reported more than 50% crop losses; however, no other households reported crop loss. Village leaders did report high yields in the four months prior to the survey.



Market Prices of Agricultural Goods

In Sheberghan city market, wheat prices remained constant from February 2003 to January 2004. The present (January 2004) price of 38 Af's per seer (7 kg) is marginally lower than January prices.

The graph on the left compares day labour rates through the year. The highest rates coincide with harvest seasons (June to November) while planting occurs from November to January.

During the 2003 planting season, the usual daily labour wage was 75 Af's, though planting labour rates have since doubled.

Daily labour rates reached a high of 200 Af's per day during July and November 2003. This corresponds to the winter harvest and spring planting seasons. Should wheat prices remain depressed while agriculture labour rates are inflated, input costs will rise so that farmers are forced to stop growing wheat.

LIVESTOCK

Less than a fifth of households claim income from livestock raising (18%). Of these seven households, six were poor. Livestock rearing was generally a secondary source of income; only 2.5% reported livestock rearing as a major income generation activity. Recent research (March, 2002) described a 60% reduction in Afghani livestock populations due to nationwide drought. In Jawzjan, approximately 83% of animal stocks have been lost. Calving/ lambing rates range from 25% to 75% resulting in a slow increase in animal numbers, though current populations remain much lower than pre-drought figures. Longer-term breeding programmes and increased access to credit so that farmers can increase reproductive capacity and purchase new animals will be needed to replenish livestock populations.

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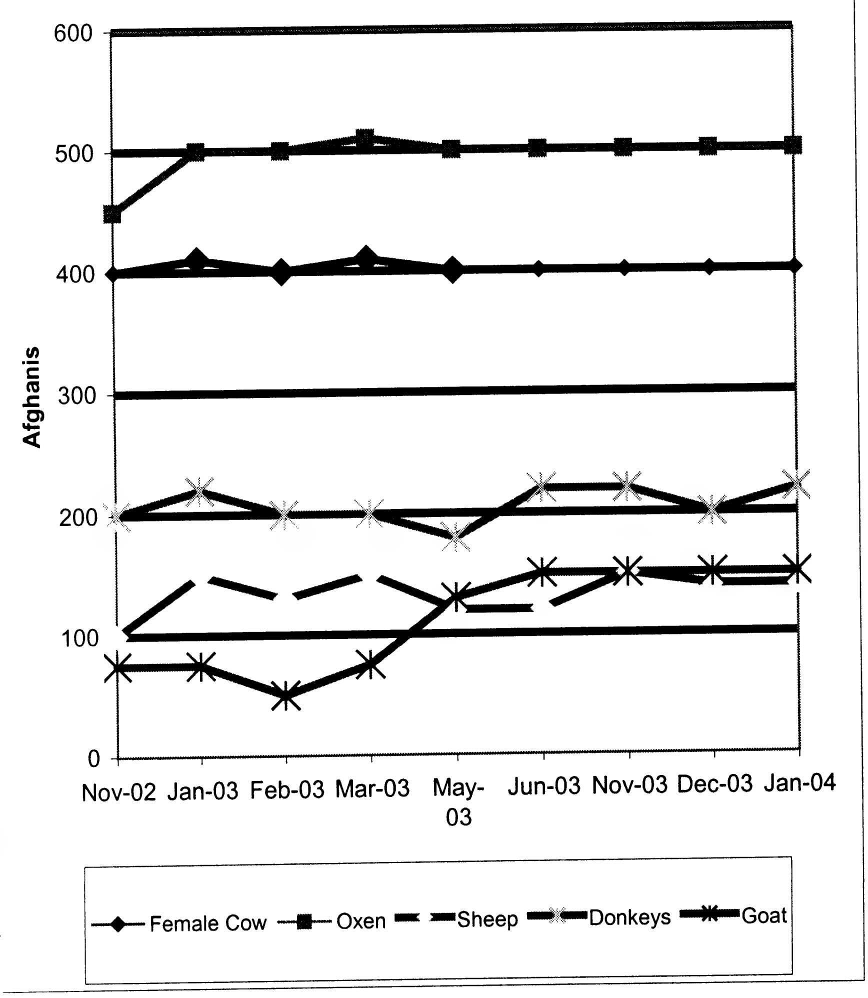
	Goats	Sheep	Cows	Donkeys	Horses
Average Number Owned "Wealth"	0	0	0	0	1.7
Average Number Owned "Middle"	1.3	6.0	1.5	1.5	1.0
Average Number Owned "Poor"	5.5	4.5	1.0	1.3	1.0

Livestock disease

When asked about livestock diseases, village leaders noted that sheep and goats were affected by sheep Pox and cattle sometimes suffered from foot and mouth disease. Only 50 heads of cattle were owned in Qan Jogha, and 50% were said to be infected with foot and mouth. However, no cattle were observed with the disease and no households offered evidence that any animals had died. Foot and mouth cannot be ruled out in Sheberghan district since this has been a problem in the past, but more evidence is required to support the claim that this disease is still a problem.

There are 520 heads of sheep and goats in QanJogha, with 67 suffering from sheep and goat pox (SGP). Symptoms include skin lesions through all skin layers, persistent fever and lymphadenitis. The disease can be acute or chronic, evolving to generalized lesions through skin and mucous membranes and focal (viral) pneumonia characterized by lesions uniformly distributed through the lungs. One of the largest viruses, Capripox (170-260 nm by 300-450 nm) is responsible for the condition and is closely related to viral lumpy skin disease. Severity is dependent on the age and breed of the animal, and the virulence of the strain (Jubby et al., pp. 466-469).

No vaccination clinics have occurred in the last four months, though a veterinary clinic and hospital exist in Sheberghan city. Medicines are not available provincially to treat the condition, and vaccination is the most effective way to prevent animal losses. Of available vaccinations, the most effective seem to be the Romanian and Kenyan O 180 strains that offer best safety and efficacy (Jubby et al., pp. 466-469). Killed vaccinations have little practical effectiveness since field research suggests that they do not provide lasting immunity from SGP.



Livestock Prices

QanJogha and surrounding villages rely on the Sheberghan city markets livestock sales and purchase.

As seen on the left, both qaraqal sheep and cow prices remained stable from November 2002 until January 2004. However, oxen prices increased between February and January 2004. Goat prices were stable at approximately $150, with seasonal variation.

Donkeys are considered the second most important animal to own, and prices tended to remain stable around $220, though some seasonal variation existed.

Grazing land and Access to Water

According to village leaders, access to grazing land has increased in the four months prior to the survey. Grassland productivity has been similar to previous years, whilst access to water increased. However, water shortages between 1999 and 2002 did play a role in subsequent animal losses. Unfortunately, local authorities were not able to use changes in grassland and water access to predict future threats to livestock. Increased awareness of threats to grazing land

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access might have allowed communities to protect themselves better against drought related animal losses. In addition, common grazing land is sometimes compromised by illegal cultivation of rainfed wheat. This practice can also compromises community animal stocks.

EMBROIDERY, CARPETS, GILIMS, WOOL and SILK SPINNING:
Most of the Qan Jogha women participate in carpet weaving (77.5%) though only 23 households note it as a source of income as some households weave carpets for their own use only. Carpet weaving as an income source is most popular in "poor" (57%) and some "middle" (10%) households and weaving normally occurred within homes rather than group weaving units. Households were normally given material by an investor who then paid wages based on the length and intricacy of the carpet completed. Twenty widows received wool from GOAL for making gillams, and have sold these and have now begun making their second rugs.

Handicraft sales were a small proportion of income generation activities. "Middle" income households (14.3%) and one household (2.5%) of the "poor" made handicrafts for cash, however, no system exists to exchange handicraft labour for wages. None of "wealthy" households participated in this activity.

The average income by activity is listed in the table below. A breakdown of income by wealth rankings reveals that the average income from carpet weaving for ''wealthy'' households was 1500 Af's, compared to 967 Af's for "middle" and 2437 Af's for ''poor'' households.

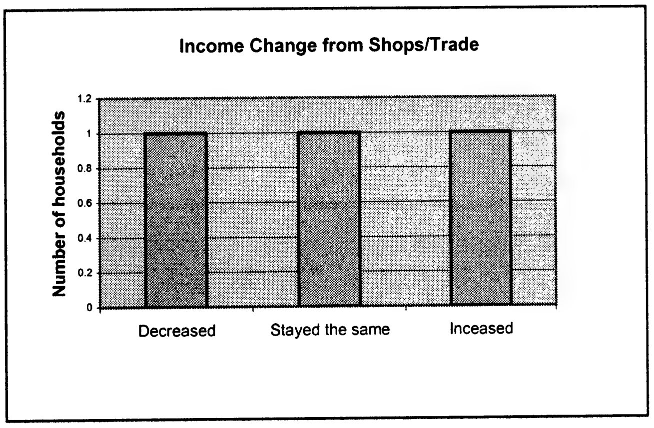
All households spun wool. Household incomes from handicrafts were stable over the last four months. Furthermore, no changes in market prices or availability for wool and silk were noted; input costs remained the same. However, both men and women observed that households engaged in these activities spent more time weaving.

	Number of households	Percentage of households	Average Income Earned in last 4 months (afs)
Wool String	17	42.5	682
Handicrafts	2	5	1800
Carpets/Gilims	20	50	2122

COLLECTION AND SALE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Fourteen households collected and sold natural resources. Of these households, ten were ''poor'', three were ''middle'' and one ''wealthy''. All fourteen households collected and sold bushes and animal manure. Both livelihood activities were negatively impacted by recent drought. Lack of rain meant that bushes did not grow as well, and fewer animals led to a reduced amount of dung available for collection. The future availability of these resources did not appear to be compromised since animal stocks would be replenished, and bushes are cut above the root system so that they may grow again after the rains. Despite the drought, bush prices have remained stable, but fewer households collect this resource as market rates for day labour are more profitable for households.

LABOUR AND OWN BUSINESS
Shops/Trader

Three households (7.5%) own shops in Qan Jogha as their primary livelihood source. Shop ownership is used as a criterion for household wealth rankings, since only households with sufficient assets to own or rent a shop close to the village centre. Mainly "middle" income households (14.3% of all "middle" households and 6.3% of the "poor" households) own shops. Most of these are simple groceries that stock household consumables like food, soap etc. Other necessary inputs include sufficient funds to maintain shop stocks, the capacity to negotiate the best price on stocked items, with an ability to maintain basic accounting and inventory procedures. Other required skills were customer service and good relationships with community members.



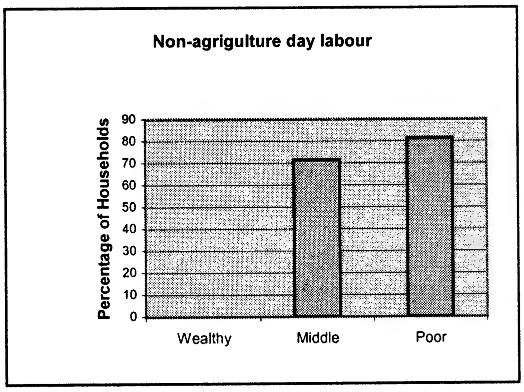
In the last months, shop profits were evenly split. The previous graph describes changes of income during the previous four months for three shops: there was no identifiable trend for increased or decreased profits among the shops. However, shopkeeper and trader profits are generally vulnerable to changes in market prices. Cross-border exchange rates, transportation and security constraints contribute to market rates. Unfortunately, no recent information is available to compare current market prices with previous years.

Micro-business (push carts, mobile street vendors)

Micro-businesses such as push-carts and street vending were not primary income sources in QanJogha. Only one "poor" household reported income from micro-business, and reported a relative decrease in income over previous months.

Push carts and mobile vendors tend to be vulnerable to price changes and security, but it is difficult to ascertain how this study's data compares to previous income rates as no data exists.

Non-Agricultural Labour(skilled and unskilled manual labour)
In QanJogha, 77.5% claimed manual labour as income. Most households (26) were "poor" and two were from the "middle" income group. The graph on the right shows household participation in non-agriculture day labour across wealth rankings. No "wealthy" households engaged in this activity. Of the five "middle" households who were engaged in non-agricultural labour, three reported increased income, one stayed the same and one decreased. Within "poor" households, most reported increased income (14 households) while (10) decreased and two households stayed the same.



Informal Wage Labour (shepherd, driver)
Three households used informal wage labour to gain income. Most (2) were from "poor" though one "wealthy" household participated. The poor households reported decreased income, whilst remaining household's income remained stable.

Formal Wage Labour (government/health/education/admin)
Two households have formal wage labour as an income source, with one household from the "middle" and one household from the "poor" wealth group. Both households which have a formal wage as an income reported an income decrease.

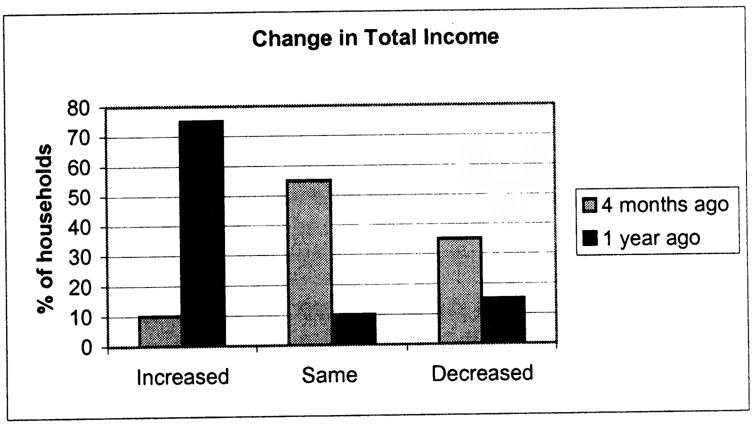
OTHER INCOME SOURCES
No QanJogha households reported income from remittance, loan repayment, begging or mortgage as income.

Rental income (land, house, shops, agriculture equipment)
Two households (one "wealthy" and one of "middle" income) group collected rent as income. The "middle" household reported income increases, while the "wealthy" household reported no change.

Loans
Loans were a major source of income for 25% of households. Of these households, seven were "poor", and three from the "middle" ranking. Five of the "poor" with one "middle" income household reported income increases, while the remaining four households (two "poor" and two "middle") reported no changes.

Gifts/Gleaning
Six "poor" households reported income from gifts/gleaning. Four households reported an income decrease, where one household reported an income increase, and one household stayed the same.

GENERAL LIVELIHOOD SHOCKS or CONSTRAINTS:
As seen on the right, more than half of all households reported stable income over recent month, while a smaller proportion of houses experienced a drop in income (35%). This contrasts with last year's trend where most households (75%) reported increased income compared to only 4% in the last months. This instability in income rates suggests some insecurity. However, decreased income rates were not associated with common activities, thus these trends might be attributed to normal variation rather than a specific shock.



The household coping strategies included here were not meant to include all possible options a home might exercise to survive tough times. The activities chosen were meant to reflect easily measured behaviours that might predict declining livelihood and food security in Afghanistan. The chosen behaviours were sub-divided into erosive and non-erosive coping strategies

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to better understand the effect of household coping behaviours on future livelihood security. The division of behaviours cannot be considered mutually exclusive as some non-erosive behaviour (selling motorcycle, bicycle etc.) might affect future opportunities. Similarly, the list does not reflect a continuum of behaviour, but general indicators of a worsening situation. However, some households experiencing chronic or transitory poverty may also periodically use these strategies.

Non-Erosive Coping Strategies (last four months) (n=40)	Percentage
Household member migrated for labour	5.0
Household members worked more hours to make daily expenses	50
Households who borrowed food from relatives to make a meal	92.5
Sold Carpet / Gilims from the house	10
Consumption of dried bread	5

Non-erosive coping strategies
Non-productive asset sales (gilims, carpets) to meet household expenses occurred in 10% of households. These sales are often linked to preparation for the winter season. Other common strategies include working longer hours (50%).

Food sources and consumption patters are also key indicators of vulnerability.

Of the families interviewed, 5% consumed dried bread, a clear indication of food insecurity. Other than food consumption changes, most families needed external support to find sufficient food. Most households (92.5%) were forced to borrow food from relatives to make a meal in the last four months. Many households (57.5%) required credit from local shops in order to obtain sufficient food.

Erosive Coping Strategies (n=40)	Percentage
Household took out loan	25
Household sold or mortgaged land, house or shop	5
Households who took food on credit from local shop	57.5
Sold sewing machine	2.5

Erosive and distress coping strategies
Household coping strategies varied by individuals, households and villages. In QanJogha, the most commonly used strategy was requesting food credit from local shops (57.5%), whilst 25% needed loans to cope with daily expenses. Most households with loans were "poor" (17), while the remaining three were from "middle" income households. Other strategies, used less commonly, were the sale/mortgage of land or major assets and the sale of sewing machines. These strategies indicate a high vulnerability to future poverty in "poor" and "middle" income households as these behaviors jeopardize future production capacity.

Migration
During October 2002 – October 2003, from 1844 to 25363 returned to Sheberghan district (OCM/PIK-EC). UNHCR data collections (November 2002 – November 2003) reported that 1,198 internally displaced persons (IDP's) returned to Sheberghan. This survey noted 20 IDP's returned to QanJogha over the last four months.

Transport
Qan Jogha village falls within Sheberghan city limits; few transportation limitations exist. People can access the city daily, by animal or on foot. Alternatively, public and private cars are available. Most people can afford public transportation charges (20 Af's round trip) while hiring a taxi is more expensive (300 Af's round trip).

Income Diversity and Capacity to Cope – Risk to Livelihoods
Households with varied income sources tend to be better able to absorb shocks and cope with stresses induced by climate, price instability, unemployment and complex emergencies such as political crises. Households relying on only one or two income generating activities tend to be particularly vulnerable to stress. Therefore, the number of income sources available gives a broad indication of household capacity to cope with these stresses. In QanJogha, households have a mean income diversity score of 3.6. Higher income diversity scores are associated with wealthier households, as shown in the table above. Major income sources for QanJogha included non-agricultural day labour, crop production, agricultural day labour, livestock raising, carpet weaving and loans.

	Average Income Diversity Score
Better Off	5.0
Medium	3.9
Poor	3.5
All households	3.6

CONCLUSION - LIVELIHOOD SECURITY SUPPORT

Sustainable livelihoods in the community require each member's participation and the adoption of methods that enable people to make their own decisions about issues affecting their families and immediate surroundings. Rebuilding village livelihoods is an enormous task that requires interventions in every sector of society. Thus, choosing interventions that best support livelihood security is of primary importance. The data presented explores some of the main coping strategies households use to survive livelihood shocks. Examining the most

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popular coping strategies with household wealth rankings gives some insight into indicators of household vulnerability and opportunities for livelihood interventions.

It was found that the livelihood strategies adopted by the households to deal with resource degradation varied with individuals, households and village communities across the three wealth groups studied in QanJogha households. In QanJogha, most of the families had to look for external support to cover their food needs. 92.5% of the families had to borrow food from their relatives in order to make a meal in the last four months and 57.5% of the households took food on credit from the local shops. Furthermore, 5% of the families interviewed had been eating dried bread or poverty food, which clearly highlights a situation of food insecurity.

In QanJogha, livelihood is not secure and is declining. The percentage of households whose net income has decreased in the last 4 months was 35%, which signals that livelihoods are not secure in the area. The percentage of households whose net income has decreased in the last 1 year was 6%. Households with decreased incomes do not all have the same livelihoods. It is also noted that there was no one alternative coping strategy for a particular problems, but bundle of options. These options were not homogenous either across wealth groups. In order to meet expenses, 10% of the households have engaged in the selling of non-productive assets such as gilims, carpets. Ten (25%) households have been reported of taken loan, six (15%) of all "poor" households claimed income from gifts/gleaning. Furthermore, 50% of the households engaged in longer hours of work, while 5.0% had one of their members migrate to look for work in last four months. Hence, the impacts of these coping strategies were also extremely varied, having different repercussions.

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[2] Information on the methodology can be found in the NSS methodology document on http://www.af/nrva/index_nss.html

[3] In some areas of implementation, the agro-ecological zones used by the 2002 WFP implemented *Country-wide Food Needs Assessment* were used to define livelihood zones.

[4] Lessons learnt from this fall round suggested that three times a year was not feasible financially and also not necessary in most locations. These lessons learnt are now being incorporated into discussions about the future of the surveillance program.

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NSS METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW[1]

The National Surveillance System (NSS) is based on a sentinel site system. These sentinel sites are tracked over time to monitor changes in food security, livelihoods, and nutritional status. The sampling methodology is based on a multi-stage sample selection process and incorporates both urban and rural areas in the sample. The table and narrative steps below detail the process used to determine the stratification framework and levels of the sample.

Rural strata	Urban strata	Rural Representation and Method of Division	Urban Representation and Method of Division
Provinces	Provinces	Every province is to be represented in the surveillance system. 33 provinces are divided according to Ministry of Interior definition of provincial boundaries.	
Districts	Urban Areas	Every rural district is to be represented in the surveillance system. Rural districts are divided according to Ministry of Interior definitions, except in the cases where currently recognized local administrative boundaries differ.	Urban areas are defined as having a population over 500,000, >100 shops and permanent food market. These include Kabul, Mazar-i Sharif, Kandahar, Herat, Jalalabad, Kunduz.
Livelihood Zone	Livelihood Groupings	Districts are divided into ago-ecological or livelihood zones.	Urban centers are divided into *nahia*, which is the sub-unit of an urban area used by the Central Statistic Office. *Nahias* in the urban setting are categorized into livelihood groupings.
Sentinel Site - Villages or Mosque Areas	Sentinel Site - Urban Blocks	One settlement or mosque area within a settlement is selected from each livelihood zone as the sentinel site.	A block is selected from each of the livelihood groupings. If the block is not large enough for a sufficient sample, then a neighboring block will also be included in the sample.
Wealth groups	Not applicable	In each sentinel site settlement, a wealth group breakdown is conducted in which all the households will be categorized into three wealth groups; poor, medium, and better off.	Because people do not have detailed information on households in their blocks, it is difficult to implement a wealth group breakdown.
Households	Households	Households are randomly selected proportional to actual representation in the population of households within the three wealth groups. The number of households selected and the selection process is detailed below.	Households are randomly selected from the block.
Individuals	Individuals	Individuals are selected from each household in the survey. Selection of individuals is only necessary for measuring certain indicators (i.e. anthropometric status) and will be based on the case definition of the indicator.	

The steps for defining livelihood zones and household selection for rural application of the NSS sampling methodology are explained below, and these steps can also be applied to the corresponding urban strata discussed in the table above.

Defining Livelihood Zones within a District
The first step completed in defining a livelihood zone was to find information on the following subjects in all settlements in a district, or as many as possible.

Defining Criteria:
- Agro-ecological context (topological/geological/soil description, water, land-cover/land-use)
- Economic resources and activity (sources of income and food, access to markets)
- Services (health, education, water, roads, other services)
- People (ethnicity, number of households in settlement).

Once the information was collected, the district was separated into livelihood zones based on *agro-ecological context* and *economic resources and activity* features. *Services* and *people* features were also considered but were not usually the basis for livelihood zone distinction.[2]

[1] Information on the methodology can be found in the NSS methodology document on http://www.mrrd.gov.af/vau/
[2] In some areas of implementation, the agro-ecological zones used by the 2002 WFP-implemented *Country-wide Food Needs Assessment* were used to define livelihood zones.

Sentinel Site Selection
Since sentinel sites are meant to be representative of their zone, the site, to the extent possible, was selected to mirror the majority of the settlements in the livelihood zone with respect to the defining criteria mentioned above. Inevitably, it is impossible to find homogeneity across all of these indicators, thus *agro-ecological context* and *economic resources and activities* were given a priority. Additional factors that were considered when choosing a sentinel site included:

- Population of sentinel site should be representative of a majority of settlements in the zone
- Distance from roads and markets relative to other villages/towns in zone
- Presence of other related surveys in order to avoid survey fatigue
- Permission by local authorities and community leaders.

Wealth Group Differentiation
As part of focus group discussions, government surveillance unit teams separately asked male and female focus group members to identify how the people in the community define wealth and then define better off, medium and poor households. Once these characteristics were agreed upon, both male and female teams used the list created in the male focus group of all households in the community to place each household into a wealth group category and then asked for the rationale behind the placement. From here male and female lists were checked to find out when the households had been assigned to a different wealth group. If households were different, male and female surveyors together had to decide on a mutually agreeable placement for the households, either by following up with focus group members or by noting that one group had a knowledge gap regarding the household under discussion.

Household Selection

For the purpose of the national surveillance system, a household is defined as a group of individuals sharing income and expenditure and that are living within the same compound. Households were randomly selected proportional to their actual representation in the population within the three wealth groups. The number of households surveyed depended on the size of the sentinel site. If the settlement had over 200 households, a mosque area or a distinct community area was selected as the sentinel site. For nomadic populations of less than 50 households, it was recommended to include all households if possible.

Total households in village	Number of households selected
< 50	All households if possible
50 - 75	20
76- 99	30
100-200	40
> 200	Choose community within village as sentinel site

Selection of Individuals
Selection of individuals within households was only necessary for measuring certain anthropometric status. In this case, all individuals in selected households meeting the case definition criteria for these indicators were included in the survey

Data Collection Instruments and Fieldwork
Data collection for the NSS was originally envisioned to occur three times a year,[3] and the fall round 2003 was the first round using standardized questionnaires. The male and female sentinel site questionnaires included focus group discussions with male and female elders. The male household questionnaire was asked to the male head of household and the female household questionnaire was asked to the female head of household. Many of the questions included in the NSS standardized questionnaires referenced the period four months prior to the survey in order to gain an understanding of issues of seasonality in relation to livelihood strategies, food security and risk to lives. The market survey questionnaire collected data at the provincial capital as well as at the main permanent food market nearest to each sentinel site on a monthly basis.

Government surveillance data collection teams consisted of one NGO supervisor, two staff from MRRD (one male and one female), two staff from MAAH (one male and one female) and two other casual staff. They were all trained on the surveillance system project as well as the implementation of the questionnaires.

[3] Lessons learned from the fall round suggested that collecting data three times a year was neither financially feasible nor necessary for most locations. The pilot NSS collected only a second round of data in spring 2004

Time was spent working with ministry partners and other stakeholders to define case definitions for items such as morbidity, livestock diseases and livelihood strategy categories. Please see guidance notes for the questionnaires posted on http://www.mrrd.gov.af/vau/. It is worth noting here that livelihood strategies were grouped according to the following categories:

Agricultural crop production	Cultivators who own the land, sharecroppers, or farmers renting land from others for cultivation.
Agricultural day labor – casual labor	Anybody participating in the daily or casual labor related to agriculture. This could include land preparation, sowing, weeding, harvesting and post-harvest processing.
Agricultural livestock	Households generating income (cash or in-kind) from their own livestock
Carpets/handicrafts	Households that weave carpets or make handicrafts and sell or exchange them
Carpets/handicrafts – wage labor	Households that weave carpets or make handicrafts on a wage labor basis.
Shops/trader – own business	Anybody who engages in significant trade, e.g. shop or livestock trader.
Small trade related business - push carts, mobile street vendors etc.	Businesses that are smaller scale than those above, such as push carts, mobile street vendors etc.
Formal wage labor (e.g. government/ health/ education/ administrative)	
Informal wage labor (e.g. shepherd, driver)	Informal wage labor indicates that a more permanent or longer term labor contracts than daily labor.
Non-agriculture day labor (artisan and manual labor)	Non-agricultural daily labor covers a range of activities not related to agriculture, but where people normally work daily or casually.
Rental income (land, house, shops, agriculture equipment, transport vehicles)	People deriving income from the rent of land, houses, shops and equipment such as combine harvesters or tractors.
Remittances	People deriving income from family members remitting money from another country.
Take out loan	Money received on credit or loan.
Repayment of loans	Money received from someone who repaid a loan.
Begging	
Gifts/tithes/gleaning/aid	This category includes gifts received from friends, family and community members. It includes *zaqat*, gleaning rights, and aid.
Mortgaging land, house, shop	
Collection and sale of natural resources	Natural resources can be bushes, trees, mushrooms, wild plants, etc.

Data Entry and Analysis
Data was entered into a decentralized Microsoft Access database and Access reports produced in each provincial surveillance government unit. These Access reports were then used by the provincial surveillance unit to create this report and the corresponding Dari report. The findings were analysed and have been presented in three categories in order to facilitate the use of this information to inform policies and programs: Food Security, Risk to Lives and Livelihood Security.

NOTE: *These reports were compiled and analyzed as part of a multi-faceted, multi-agency pilot project, and all data and analysis should be checked against final compiled results, and additional information found in a separate document to be produced by the NSS government partners:* http://www.mrrd.gov.af/vau . Contact: amanullah.assil@mrrd.org .

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